

Ref. A084/2203

MR POWELL

When I was talking to Mr Nally yesterday on other business, he reverted to the Taoiseach's wish for a meeting with the Prime Minister in late August or early September.

2. The proposition had been that the Taoiseach might come and the Prime Minister for an informal talk on his way back to Ireland from a holiday in France, in the last week of August. It was suggested that European Community business might provide the cover for such a visit, though in practice the Taoiseach would want to talk mainly about Anglo-Irish affairs.

3. I said to Mr Nally that I doubted whether a meeting between the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach on Anglo-Irish affairs would be useful as soon as that. I also indicated that the Prime Minister would have many other preoccupations at the end of August and in early September, before she left for her overseas trip.

4. Mr Nally was clearly inclined to agree that the time had not yet come for a meeting between the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach on Anglo-Irish business; but he said that, in view of recent developments in the Council of Ministers on the budget issues, the Taoiseach now believed it essential that he should have a meeting with the Prime Minister to discuss European Community business before the meeting of the Budget Council on 6 and 7 September. The Taoiseach is keen to do everything possible to see that the problems are resolved at that meeting and do not fester through the autumn, and intends to have a series of meetings with Community Heads of Government in the days immediately before the meeting in the hope of making that possible. He would be prepared to come either on this way back from France or as part of a whistle stop tour of Community capitals or on a special trip

from Dublin. If he came, he would no doubt also want to talk about Anglo-Irish affairs.

5. I was asked to tell the Prime Minister of the Taoiseach's thoughts on this, and to convey a indication of the Prime Minister's response to Dublin before the Taoiseach leaves for his holiday on Thursday 2 August.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

31 July 1984



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

Could you  
please say whether  
you agree to  
postponing a meeting  
with the Taoiseach  
until late August /  
early September?

Yes Mr

C D P  
10/7.



File  
bc R

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

The Prime Minister has noted with interest your minute (Ref. A084/2035) regarding your conversation with the Taoiseach in Dublin on 16 July.

The Prime Minister would not wish to see the Taoiseach as early as next week but would prefer to leave the contact until very late August or early September, or possibly even later than that. It would be helpful if you could convey this reaction to Mr. Nally.

C.D. POWELL  
20 July 1984

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister

Ref. A084/2035

PRIME MINISTER

Mr Goodall and I visited Dublin on 16 July. I shall be reporting in detail on the conversations which we had with our counterparts on Anglo-Irish business.

2. While we were in Dublin I was invited to go and see the Taoiseach, and had about half an hour with him. He made the following points:

1. On Anglo-Irish affairs, he thought that it would be useful to take advantage of the Irish Presidency of the European Community to arrange meetings between himself and you which, while ostensibly to deal with Community business, could also extend to Anglo-Irish affairs. Specifically, the Taoiseach said that he was going to Strasbourg from 24 to 26 July, and could come and see you in London either on his way to or on his way back from Strasbourg (for instance on 27 July). I said that I would report this to you. This was, however, a very busy time of year for you, and I said that my impression was that there was room for one or two further discussions between Mr Nally and me before matters were taken to a higher level. The Taoiseach accepted that it might well be appropriate to leave a contact until (say) very late August or early September, but he clearly remains anxious to have a further opportunity of talking to you privately before very long.

2. The Taoiseach hoped that you might be able to find an opportunity to receive Mr Dick Spring, the Leader of the Irish Labour Party and the Tanaiste (Deputy Prime Minister). He thought that it would be useful <sup>for you</sup> to hear at first hand Mr Spring's commitment to the kind of policies which the Taoiseach was himself following in relation to Northern Ireland. It would not surprise me if domestic Irish politics had something to do with this: there are

suggestions that the Fine Gael - Labour coalition has been under strain, and Dr FitzGerald may feel that your receiving Mr Spring would help to buttress it.

3. The Taoiseach emphasised that the new Irish Ambassador, Mr Noel Dorr, enjoyed his total confidence and could be regarded as speaking with his authority on Anglo-Irish affairs.

4. The Taoiseach was clearly worried about the resolution of European Community budget problems (having just had a meeting with Monsieur Ortoli), and hoped that we should be playing a constructive part at the Budget Council later in the week.

5. On the Presidency of the European Commission, Dr FitzGerald said that the enquiries he had been making suggested that there would be a consensus around the Community in favour of Monsieur Delors (the only outstanding country being Greece, which still supported Monsieur Cheysson). It was clear that other countries would not accept Monseieur Cheysson, and would prefer Vicomte Davignon to that. The Taoiseach said that he had noted your strong support for Vicomte Davignon; but he had also noted that you spoke warmly in personal terms about Monsieur Delors, and he hoped that you would be willing to support Monsieur Delors's candidacy.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

16 July 1984



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