

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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ROINN AN TAOISIGH

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SECRET AND PERSONALNorthern Ireland

Taoiseach

What seems to have been the last meeting of the negotiating groups before the Summit took place in Iveagh House from approximately 3 p.m. to about 12.30 a.m. It dealt with:-

- (1) arrangements for the Summit;
- (2) texts on:
 - (a) the Agreement;
 - (b) the Communique;
 - (c) press summary;
 - (d) statements by the Taoiseach and Prime Minister;
 - (e) possible answer on mixed courts;
 - (f) prisons review; and
 - (g) status.
- (3) Secretariat/Conference arrangements; and
- (4) the Trust.

Arrangements for Summit

You know the venue and date. The tentative arrangement is that the Summit would begin with a brief tete-a-tete between yourself and the Prime Minister followed by a plenary session. The signing would be at 2 p.m. immediately after which the texts would be distributed, in stencil form. The British do not contemplate circulation of printed documents before Monday - for fear of breaches of confidentiality. They will print the Agreement and the Communique in one Command Paper. The press summary will not be included in this document.

The joint press conference would start at 2.30 p.m. and would conclude so as to enable the Prime Minister and you, if you desire, to be clear of the location by 3.30 or 4 p.m.

The British Ministerial team would be the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Arrangements are in hand for televising the signing ceremony and, if required, the press conference. We have made the point about the necessity for pooled outside T.V. facilities.

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Because of the location the Prime Minister will speak first. The reaction of the British delegation to the suggestion that you and the Prime Minister should each be allowed to deal after the initial statements, for approximately 15 minutes with questions was not favourably received. They said that on all past experience her inclination would be to "field" the questions as they come. She will be briefed as fully as possible on the sensitive points.

While Robert Armstrong and I were discussing with you the question of location, Sean Donlon took the meeting through the arrangements for the pre-Summit briefings, at diplomatic level. I was not present for most of this part of the meeting but at the part which I did attend, the British objected, on theological grounds, to the suggestion that the Secretary General of the United Nations be briefed before the Summit. A "trigger telegram" will be sent to the Ambassadors of EEC countries and to Austria and Sweden, as well as Canada and Australia, so that they can immediately brief as previously instructed.

A more detailed schedule of timing and other details will be provided as soon as possible.

Texts:(a) Agreement

The title will be Anglo-Irish Agreement, 1985. Otherwise the text as circulated on 11th November will stand. The British text will be different in its description of the two Governments and in the reversal of their places in the Agreement i.e. the Government of Ireland will come first in the Irish version and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the British version. This is standard practice in Agreements between the two countries. The text is the same, for all practical purposes, as that of which the Government have informally approved.

(b) Communique

Paragraph 3 now begins: "The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach signed a formal and binding Agreement between their two Governments, which will enter into force as soon as each Government has notified the other of acceptance. The Agreement has ". In consequence the first sentence of paragraph 6 i.e. "The Agreement provides for entering into force " has been dropped. The second sentence now begins "The exchange of notifications of acceptance will not be completed until the Agreement has been approved by the British Parliament and by Dail Eireann". In paragraph 10 the sentence

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"Among the areas where progress has been made in the past year is the planning of new areas of co-operation in education, notably in curriculum development between schools." has been deleted - because of the fears of the Minister for Education. A consequential change has been made in the following sentence. Paragraph 11 which dealt with your possible discussions on "current international issues" has also been deleted.

(c) Press Summary

Changes have been made in this to tighten the drafting and make it conform more closely with the Agreement.

(d) Statements by Taoiseach and Prime Minister

The draft of the Prime Minister's statement, which was handed to us, is attached in the Appendix. While it seems factual and comparatively bland, the British side say that this is her style. So far as we are concerned, it appears to be in order with one very minor change ("consent" for "consented" in the third last line of page 1). It has still to be cleared by the Prime Minister.

As you know, we handed your corresponding draft, as attached, to the British side and took note of their comments, which are indicated, in manuscript in the attached version. As discussed last night, all the suggested changes appear to be in order. The only outstanding point is the word "alienation" in the first paragraph.

(e) Courts

The British will suggest to the Prime Minister, if she is asked about mixed courts, that she should use the phraseology as in the annexed text - as revised at 7.25 p.m.

(f) Prison Review

This matter came up at an early stage in the negotiations and a text was agreed. It is attached. It was agreed, depending on circumstances at the time, the Secretary of State would consider whether this would be used in his Commons statement.

(g) Status

The text as it now stands, following discussions last night, is annexed. The British are not completely happy with the passage in square brackets which, I think, they might like to see omitted.

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4.

You will note the addition made at official level following the side meeting at which you presided last night i.e. "What is important is what we have agreed about the future".

Secretariat/Conference

The British Secretary will be a man called Elliott, based in the Northern Ireland Office but coming from the Foreign Office. He will be of Under Secretary rank i.e. second from the top, more or less, in British civil service gradings. Depending on the way things develop, he will have responsibilities for other areas, as well as for his work as Joint Secretary to the Conference.

The British are suggesting a building near the Palace Barracks, on its own grounds, which is being inspected today, for the office and limited residential accommodation. The building is at present occupied by about 40 factory inspectors who will be decanted, over time, if there is agreement to the proposal for the use of the premises for Conference purposes. The building is, we are told, about 5 minutes drive from Stormont.

We did not commit ourselves on the building and continued to press for a location at Stormont on grounds both of convenience and security. It would, however, be unduly sanguine to assume that we will get this, even in the medium term.

The initial arrangements for office and residential accommodation will need to be looked at very carefully in the coming weeks.

Trust

We need to get, more precisely, a definition of purposes, membership, and other features. It was agreed that Tony Brennan on the British side would contact Sean Donlon, on our side, or vice versa, so that a group could be put together to draw up detailed recommendations, and, if feasible, an outline of the Trust deed. It is highly important that this work be advanced in time for the next approaches to the Americans on this important issue.

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Miscellaneous

In the evening, Robert Andrew mentioned that they would be appointing eight members to the 17 member Probation Board. Of the eight, four would be from each community.

He indicated that he had figures showing an improvement in police presence with the UDR over some base date (which remains obscure) of from 5% to 42%. This matter is being pursued. He said that they would be looking at an early meeting of the Conference to something on the work being done, in another channel, on explosives.



13 November 1985

Copies to:

Tanaiste
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for Justice
Attorney General.

Ambassador Dorr, Messrs. Donlon, Ward, Lillis and Quigley.