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ROINN AN TAOISIGH

Uimhir.....

¹⁵
European Council, Rome, December 1990

Taoiseach's Meeting with Prime Minister Major

The meeting took place in the room where the Council had been held in the Palazzo Montecitorio. It lasted for just under 15 minutes and, apart from the principals, was attended by Charles Powell and the undersigned. The tone of the meeting was very friendly.

The Taoiseach opened by congratulating the Prime Minister on his appointment and commented on how good the Council had been, in terms of general understanding and harmony.

The Prime Minister said that in the IGCs he foresaw certain difficulties but thought it was as well to face them. The Taoiseach agreed - and went on to say that he had been thinking that it would be a good idea to drop over and see the Prime Minister for a general discussion on the many issues in which the two countries share an interest - both in European Community and in relation to Northern Ireland.

The Prime Minister said that he would like to see how Peter Brooke's initiative got on. When its fate seemed more certain, then, possibly, we might talk about "something more substantive". He said that it would be extremely agreeable to visit Dublin, a city he had never seen. The Taoiseach took up this expression of interest and said that he would be only too glad to arrange something.

As there was pressure on both men to go immediately to the opening session of the IGC, which was taking place at the time, they then agreed on the line to be taken with the press. This was to the effect that they had had a meeting and agreed to have a fuller meeting in the New Year for a discussion of European and bilateral matters; and that the meeting might be of a substantive nature.

Dermot Nally

17 December 1990

c.c. Secretary Dorr, Department of Foreign Affairs
Assistant Secretary Gallagher, "
Assistant Secretary Barrington, "