

**Dermot Nally
Papers**

UCDA P254/1

ROINN AN TAOISIGH

Uimhr.

To: Subject to Verification

From: SECRET AND PERSONAL

Luxembourg Summit, 28/29 June 1991

Meeting between the Taoiseach and Prime Minister Major

The meeting took place in one of the British delegation rooms in the Kirchberg immediately after the conclusion of the Council. It lasted for about 15-20 minutes and was attended by Private Secretary Stephen Wall and the undersigned.

This note is in direct speech but does not purport to be verbatim.

Following some references to how the Council had gone, generally, the Taoiseach went on to refer to his intervention on the Dutch draft of the GATT conclusions of the Council, where his views had been accepted. He knew that these might not have been what the British wanted.....

Major

Yes - you did very well on that. Co-decision still remains a difficulty. That is not going to be wrapped up easily.

Taoiseach

The whole debate will be difficult. Lubbers is pessimistic (about Maastricht - or about GATT?).

Major

I don't understand what Dumas was about. Usually he is very clear in his intentions. They are very subtle.

Taoiseach

I agree with you there. It was strange that Mitterrand played so very small a part. You were dead right last night. I also listened with great interest to what you said about the ECU.

Major

I am tired of some of the things that went on last night. Subjects are brought up without notice - obviously with prior consultation among two or three countries orally who then come in to support the proposition. Obviously they have been spoken to before the intervention. What happened about Algeria just was not right. I have problems within India. Would the Community help me with a few billion ECUs there? I know the Isle of Wight also has problems. Perhaps I'll raise that the next time!

ROINN AN TAOISIGH

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Taoiseach

Mitterrand said nothing until he came to that (Algeria) last night. Delors then intervened - obviously anxious to help the President (Mitterrand) but I understand that the President (of Algeria) stood down this morning. At least, there seems to be some news or rumour to that effect.

Are you happy with the defence conclusions in the Communique?

Major

- turning to Wall - You should have told me about the President's resignation, Stephen, I'd love to have known. I could have used it to show how foolish these 'spontaneous' proposals are.

We are happy with the defence conclusions. I know what you mean about them being hard to understand. You cannot 'reinforce' something that doesn't exist. But the whole point is that everyone can interpret the conclusions as they wish. For you, the answer must be that you can't reinforce what doesn't exist.

Taoiseach

Perhaps we might discuss Northern Ireland.

Major

Yes. I have been talking to Peter Brooke. He tells me that the talks, when they are going on, go on very well but the Unionists are saying that if the Conference meeting on 16th July takes place, the process will be at an end. I can only hope that we will find a way.

Taoiseach

I agree with you.

Major

I share your views that we must have the meeting on 16th July. The Unionists will just have to buy that. They may do a lot of huffing and puffing -

Taoiseach

About our meeting in Dublin - have you had an opportunity to reflect on that?

Major

Yes, indeed. I, of course, agree to the Dublin meeting and I agree with what you say about the preparations for the meeting. However, we must be careful not to do anything which could be interpreted as acting to cut across the talks. We must do nothing to frighten the horses. Nevertheless there is a lot of work to be done in preparation for the Dublin meeting. I agree with what you say about Nick's dinner. We should pick up that system. It is a thing which exists. It is something which I can defend in Parliament, if it comes

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to light, as not being new or set up in any way connected with the talks. It is not a new structure or system. There is no scope for bringing a new structure into existence at the moment.

Taoiseach

(after a query as to what exactly Nick's diner was)
I agree we should just keep that there and let it work as it does.

Major

And we must keep in touch on European matters, as well.

Taoiseach

I fully agree. We are anxious to be helpful to you in that area. I fully appreciate the reasons for your reservations.

After some further general comments, the meeting concluded.



Dermot Nally

1 July 1991