

File
CONFIDENTIAL

F/IRISH. EAM



bcc JP
RB

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

2 September 1993

Dear Jonathan,

NEXT BRITISH-IRISH SUMMIT

We had a word on 1 September about the timing of the next bilateral summit, on which Dickie Stagg wrote from the FCO on 11 August.

As I told you, it would greatly help our planning of the Prime Minister's autumn schedule if we could narrow down the possible range of dates. The timing of the summit is of course not simply a diary question, but is likely to be affected by the politics of the Northern Ireland question this autumn. I hope that you may be able to give us a clearer picture after your Secretary of State's meeting with the Tanaiste at the end of next week. Subject to any developments then, it might be our objective to rule out 3 and 5 November as possible dates for the bilateral summit. They are quite some way ahead of the December European Council. More to the point, they follow, almost immediately, the special European Council provisionally scheduled for Friday 29 October.

I note that neither 2 nor 6 December is likely to be convenient for the Foreign Secretary. It looks as if we may find ourselves boxed in as the December Council approaches, but we shall clearly have to examine nearer the time whether some further options can be identified.

I am copying this letter to John Sawers (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and to Melanie Leech (Cabinet Office).

*Yours ever,
Roderic.*

RODERIC LYNE

J Rodell Esq
Northern Ireland Office

CONFIDENTIAL

AS