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Filed on:

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

17 June 1993

Jean John,

UK/IRISH SUMMIT, WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE 1993

The Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and the Northern Ireland Secretary held talks and a working supper (at which the Foreign Secretary was not present) on 16 June with the Taoiseach, the Tanaiste and the Irish Minister of Justice. The respective delegations were as set out in your briefing letter of 16 June.

This letter records the plenary meeting in the Cabinet Room from 1840 to 1930. The Summit broke down in all to five sessions, (the other four being recorded separately):

- restricted session between the Prime Minister and the Tanaiste;
- parallel meeting between the two Foreign Ministers, the Northern Ireland Secretary and the Minister of Justice;
- plenary session;
- working supper;
- after supper discussion of President Robinson's visit, in a restricted format.

Between the plenary session and the supper, the Prime Minister and the Tanaiste gave a 20 minute press conference in No 12 Downing Street. At the end of the supper, a communiqué (copy enclosed) was approved.

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EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Growth and Employment

The Prime Minister described the robust approach he would take to discussion of growth and employment during the first session of the Copenhagen Council. This should be an occasion for stock-taking, not for new decisions going beyond the Edinburgh growth initiative. He would be opposed to any proposals for new large-scale expenditure.

The Taoiseach agreed. Unemployment was the biggest problem facing the Community. GATT was relevant. We needed to increase world trade.

The Taoiseach referred to Ireland's interest in structural funds. The UK also had an interest, with Merseyside and the Highlands and Islands. He hoped that the Commission would move rapidly to put its regulations in place.

The Prime Minister referred to employer costs and our opposition to the social chapter. The Community needed to improve its competitiveness in relation to Japan, the Pacific basin and the United States. The Taoiseach said that, although Ireland's social costs were the lowest in the Community, his Government was under constant pressure to reduce them further.

Special European Summit

The Taoiseach said that he could see a purpose in the proposed special summit if its aim was to re-launch the Community after Maastricht. But he would see the proposal in a different light if the objectives went further, for example in the direction of institutional change.

The Prime Minister said that Chancellor Kohl had given him the first of these two explanations. He was not opposed to this, but pretty neutral. He saw no great point in it, but the summit would probably happen if enough member states wanted to hold it. Its agenda should deal with practical issues of implementation of Maastricht. It would be premature to begin discussing issues relating to the 1996 IGC. The Taoiseach agreed.

Sites of EC Institutions

The Taoiseach said that the Danish Prime Minister had indicated in Dublin that this subject might come up at Copenhagen. The Prime Minister

noted that Mr Nyrup Rasmussen had indicated the opposite in his comments to the press after his meeting with Chancellor Kohl in Bonn.

The Taoiseach referred to the UK's bid for the EMEA, and asked whether we were still pursuing our bid for the EMI/ECB. The Prime Minister replied that London was Europe's biggest financial centre. It was in competition with Tokyo and New York. It was important not only for London but for the Community as a whole that Europe's main financial centre should not be diminished. We also had a major interest in the EMEA.

GATT

The Taoiseach said that Ireland had some problems over GATT, to which he had referred on his visit to Paris. The proposed deal would have a disproportionate effect on Ireland because it sold 85 per cent of its beef abroad.

The Prime Minister said we were delighted at Sutherland's appointment. He mentioned the problems of Cairns group countries, which had concluded their GATT deals several years ago, since when conditions had changed. We had put the negotiations in the hands of the Commission, and could not restrict our negotiators too tightly. He hoped that substantial progress could be recorded at the Tokyo summit, leading then to renewed multilateral talks. He thought the Presidency intended to play this subject in low key at Copenhagen.

Enlargement

The Foreign Secretary said it was important to sustain the impetus of the EFTAn enlargement negotiations. They had not yet run into major difficulties. The Taoiseach said he had been surprised at the unyielding line taken with him by President Mitterrand. The Foreign Secretary thought the French might be concerned that the incoming neutrals might wish to water down the CFSP. The Tanaiste said he had encountered concern in Austria that the membership referendum there could produce a negative vote: Austria's standard of living was considerably higher than the Community average.

Central and Eastern Europe

The Foreign Secretary stressed the importance of trade liberalisation with the CEEs. The Prime Minister said that the Community should take a more forthcoming line over their eventual accession. The Taoiseach agreed that the Community should be prepared to accept the Central and Eastern European States when they were ready for membership.

The Foreign Secretary said that the French Prime Minister's proposals on European stability might be a complicating factor. M. Balladur was looking for endorsement at Copenhagen; but we had not yet had time to study his proposals closely. The Taoiseach said that the same applied to Ireland.

Maastricht Bill

The Prime Minister gave his view on the future course of the Maastricht Bill.

Subsidiarity

The Prime Minister said that the UK, with likely support from Germany and France, would be pressing at Copenhagen for progress on subsidiarity.

SOMALIA, SUDAN AND AFRICA

The Taoiseach expressed concern about the UN operation in Somalia. He was due to put proposals for a further Irish contribution to the Dail next week. The Irish Defence Minister had had to postpone his visit because the situation was not safe. Ireland had many aid workers there. In reply to questions from the Prime Minister, the Taoiseach said that he was not expecting the Copenhagen Council to produce texts on Somalia and Sudan.

The Foreign Secretary said that the situation in Sudan was very bad. There had been much political activity, e.g. from the Nigerians, but so far to little effect. It was not clear whether a Security Council Resolution would achieve anything.

The Tanaiste expressed frustration at the lack of success of UN operations after the expectations raised by "Restore Hope". Ireland was ready to support the German-sponsored conference on Sub-Saharan States which Foreign Minister Kinkel had proposed. Kinkel had argued that it was right to look at Africa as a whole. The Foreign Secretary said that the German interest was welcome, though he was not sure that their analysis was correct. The problems in parts of Africa were very different.

BOSNIA

The Foreign Secretary thought that the Copenhagen Council would not produce a major new declaration on Bosnia. The point would be covered in the Conclusions, which would refer to humanitarian efforts, safe havens and so on.

The main point of interest would be what line the Community should take on the political process, against the background of suggestions by Lord Owen and the UN Secretary General that there was a need for a reconvened conference. The Tanaiste agreed there was a need for discussion in a wider group - either the Steering Committee or the ICFY.

REMAND CASE: DAVID MATTHEWS

The Tanaiste raised the case of David Matthews, who was in custody and had been accused of involvement in a series of bombings. There was concern in Ireland that this case had the potential to go wrong. He had raised it with the Foreign Secretary. He hoped that the Government could keep an eye on it. The Northern Ireland Secretary said that he had taken note. If charges had been laid, the case would now be under the responsibility of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The most that he could do would be to mention to the Attorney General the concern expressed.

ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL

The meeting ended with a short exchange between Sir Patrick Mayhew and the Irish Delegation about the Royal Victoria Hospital.

I am sending copies of this letter to Jonathan Stephens (Northern Ireland Office) and Melanie Leech (Cabinet Office).

*Yours ever,
Roderic*

RODERIC LYNE

R J Sawers Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office