

PRIME MINISTER

PLENARY MEETING AND WORKING SUPPER WITH THE IRISH
PRIME MINISTER'S DELEGATION

The Irish are bringing a very large team. Apart from three Ministers and the Ambassador, they have three Permanent Secretaries already in their squad of eight; and are trying to add a fourth (the Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office) and possibly an ex Permanent Secretary (Dermot Nally) by tomorrow evening. So we shall probably be eight against ten. This is likely to make the talk in plenary and at supper a little stilted.

The timetable for the meeting is:

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| 1800 | Delegation arrives
Photocall |
| 1805/10 | Restricted session between you and the Taoiseach, plus notetakers, in the Cabinet Room. Separate meeting between the two Foreign Ministers, the Northern Ireland Secretary and the Irish Justice Minister, plus supporting officials, in the Green Room. |
| 1830 | Plenary meeting: you and the Taoiseach are joined by Ministers and officials |
| [1900 approx | Foreign Secretary leaves] |
| 1930 | Press doorstep in Downing Street |
| 1945 approx to 2100 approx | Working supper in the Pillared Room |

You can safely ignore most of the attached briefing. There is a sensible agenda on the second page. There is nothing in the briefing on Community issues which you do not already know by heart. The Irish will probably lobby for support over their bid for 8 billion Irish punts in EC Structural funds. On GATT, you could ask Reynolds about his remarks in Paris last week when he appeared sympathetic to the French position.

I suggest, therefore, that you concentrate on the following parts of the briefing:

- the section on Northern Ireland (at the front, on blue paper);
- the briefing for your press doorstep (at the end of the Northern Ireland Section, on blue paper);
- cross border security cooperation (white paper);
- Sudan (white paper, at the end of the section on "EC Issues"): the Irish have taken a particular interest in Sudan, and their Development Cooperation Minister went ~~there~~ in April. The brief complains that they are too soft over Iran's involvement there. From our point of view, it does not much matter if this subject is not reached;
- UN peace-keeping (white paper): the Irish are involved in nine UN missions which is a good record for a small country. Their biggest contingent is an infantry battalion of 755 in Lebanon. They have 40 policeman and 12 observers in Cambodia and 20 policemen and 6 observers in Croatia;
- the scene-setting telegram from our Ambassador is worth a glance;

- DSS (letter on blue at the back) say that we are cooperating with the Irish over the disabled. They hope you will encourage this process.

Rmjl

RODERIC LYNE

15 June 1993

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