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Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

11 August 1993

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London SW1A 2AH

Dear Alex,

attached

Next Anglo-Irish Summit

Roderic Lyne wrote on 3 August about possible dates for the next Anglo-Irish Summit.

None of the dates suggested is perfect (inevitably). The problems are as follows:

- (a) 3 November: There is a Council of Europe Ministerial meeting in Strasbourg which both the Tanaiste and (less likely) the Foreign Secretary may attend.
- (b) 5 November: The Foreign Secretary would be free for morning talks and lunch, but the Northern Ireland Secretary has other engagements.
- (c) 2 December: The Foreign Secretary may be required for a North Atlantic Council meeting in Brussels. The Northern Ireland Secretary has no commitments after Cabinet.
- (d) 6 December: Both the Tanaiste and the Foreign Secretary will be attending an FAC in Brussels.

Like to do regional tour if at all possible

The December dates would be well timed for a pre-European Council discussion. At present the NIO see no need to press the Irish for an earlier meeting, although this could change if there are developments over Northern Ireland.

I am copying this letter to Jonathan Stephens (NIO) and Melanie Leech (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

Jimie

(C R V Stagg)
Private Secretary

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