

THE HANDLING OF NORTHERN IRELAND TOPICS (INCLUDING EXCHANGES WITH THE IRA)

1. The meeting is due to start at 11.00am in Dublin Castle. The sequence of events will be:

- tete-a-tete between the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach. The Taoiseach will want to concentrate on peace initiatives
- (in parallel) meeting between the Foreign Secretary, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Mr Spring. This can be devoted entirely to Northern Ireland matters. The Secretary of State and the Foreign Secretary could take this opportunity to talk to Mr Spring about the Parliamentary Statement on Monday on exchanges between the IRA and the Government, and the corrections to the dossier made on Wednesday night. Mr Spring is reportedly still sore about the fact of these exchanges. An explanation of the previous need for absolute secrecy may help. It may also be possible to prepare some of the ground on security co-operation
- plenary session. Again, this can be devoted entirely to Northern Ireland matters. The main focus will be on the Joint Declaration and other related texts
- lunch, programmed to start at 1.15pm. The suggestion is that lunch should be used for the discussion of EC and other non-Northern Ireland matters
- press conference. It has not yet been decided whether separate press conferences will be held.

SECRET AND PERSONAL

2. Some points to make on the exchanges between the British Government and the IRA leadership are attached, together with Thursday's notes for supplementaries on this subject.

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