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CONFIDENTIAL

Anglo-Irish Summit

Preparatory Meeting 23 September 1983

This meeting took place in the Taoiseach's room, Government Buildings. The Taoiseach was accompanied by the Tanaiste and the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Mr D Nally, Secretary to the Government, Mr S Donlon, Secretary, Mr M Lillis, Assistant Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr Michael Donnelly, Assistant Secretary, Department of Justice and Mr B McCarthy, Department of the Taoiseach were also present.

Dowra case

There was a lengthy discussion on this during which the Taoiseach expressed concern that we had not responded to the RUC request for written evidence (sworn statements etc) of the facts as we understood them. It was agreed that the Taoiseach would speak to the Minister for Justice with a view to arranging a meeting between both of them and the Garda Commissioner. The Taoiseach stressed the urgency of getting our position fully clarified in advance of the Summit.

Summit Meeting

There was a general discussion on what our priorities should be. There was a need to get the Prime Minister interested in the Northern Ireland problem. The Taoiseach said that he felt the Summit should be a relaxed, conditioning type of discussion. The view was expressed that the Prime Minister's interest lay in two areas i.e economic and security, the latter being concerned primarily with Ireland's strategic position in the North Atlantic.

There was a consensus that the New Ireland Forum would have to be handled very carefully in the Summit Communique to avoid possible criticism of the Taoiseach for in some way pre-empting

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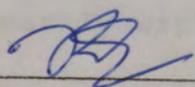
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the eventual outcome of the Forum's deliberations and, also, to avoid alienating Unionist opinion in advance of the Forum report.

The work of the Co-ordinating Committee of the AIIC was outlined to the Taoiseach - there would be two meetings of this Committee prior to the Summit and also a meeting of the Steering Committee. The Minister for Foreign Affairs said that both he and the Secretary of State had also agreed to meet before the Summit.

In a review of specific issues, the position on the Shannon extradition case was noted and the matter is to be discussed with the Attorney General's Office. The likelihood of agreement on the supply of Kinsale Gas to Northern Ireland was mentioned as was the possibility of having such an agreement announced in the Summit Communique. Clarification would be sought as to whether the Secretary of State was required to bring the matter to Government before agreement was announced. The present position in relation to the arbitration of the Continental Shelf is to be established. The Tanaiste said that he would be proceeding with the Voting Rights legislation as soon as the Dail resumed and he understood that the Minister for Justice was virtually ready to proceed with the complementary legislation relating to the protection of civil rights.

It was agreed that there would be a further meeting to discuss the Summit in advance of the meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee fixed for 11 October next.



23/9/83