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Title: Letter from T.K. Whitaker, Secretary,
Department of Finance, to Jim Malley, Private
Secretary to Prime Minister O'Neill, accepting
invitation to Belfast on behalf of the Taoiseach,
Seán Lemass.

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ROINN AIRGEADAIS.

5 January, 1965.

Personal & Confidential

Dear Jim,

The Taoiseach, Mr. Lemass, has asked me to transmit the following message to you for Captain O'Neill, in reply to the latter's invitation as conveyed by you in person yesterday.

Mr. Lemass would be very pleased to go to Belfast for lunch on either Wednesday or Thursday of next week (January 13 or 14), whichever is the more convenient for your Prime Minister. He would propose to go by car in the morning, returning the same evening; only if the weather made it necessary would he travel by train. Mrs. Lemass would not be available to accompany the Taoiseach, who would propose to take me with him, if that is acceptable.

Mr. Lemass considers that, to avoid undue press speculation, the announcement of the visit should be made not before the previous night, so that it would appear in the newspapers only on the day of the visit. He has in mind an announcement as follows:

"The Taoiseach, Mr. Seán Lemass, T.D., ~~will~~ today meet Captain O'Neill, M.P., Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, in Belfast. They ~~will~~ discuss possibilities of practical co-operation in matters of mutual interest, such as ~~tourism~~.

It is intended that Captain O'Neill will later visit Dublin for further discussions."

I should be grateful if you would let me know which day would suit Captain O'Neill for the visit and whether the other proposals above are agreeable to him.

/I

J.Y. Malley, Esq., D.S.O., D.F.C.,
Private Secretary to Prime Minister,
Stormont Castle,
Belfast 4.

2 January, 1965

Personal & Confidential

Dear Jim,

I was delighted at the recent renewal of our contact and look forward to seeing you again.

Yours sincerely,

T. K. WHITAKER

Mr. Lemass would be very pleased to go to Belfast for lunch on either Thursday or Friday of next week (January 13 or 14), whichever is the more convenient for your Prime Minister. He would propose to go by car in the morning, returning the same evening; only if the weather made it necessary would he travel by train. Mrs. Lemass would not be available to accompany the Taoiseach, who would propose to take me with him, if that is acceptable.

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