

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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Mr Kirwan
seen by Taoiseach
12/5

Taoiseach
you may wish to see at
this stage pl.

Misc.
F. 2.

ROINN AN TAOISIGH

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Taoiseach's meeting with British Prime Minister in London on 21 May 1980

1. A meeting of officials from the Department of the Taoiseach, Foreign Affairs and Finance took place in the Department of the Taoiseach on Wednesday, 7 May 1980, to discuss arrangements for the above meeting, including preparation of the necessary briefing material. The following were present:-

- Messrs Nally, Kirwan and Murray : Department of the Taoiseach
- Messrs Neligan and Burke : Department of Foreign Affairs
- Mr P O Duibhir : Department of Finance.

Travel arrangements

2. It was envisaged that the Taoiseach and party would travel to London on the evening of the 20 May. A briefing meeting would be held in the Embassy in London after arrival following which the Ambassador would host dinner for the Taoiseach. For the following day the programme would most likely be as follows:-

- 12.00 tete-a-tete discussion between the Taoiseach and the British Prime Minister;
- 1 p.m. (approx) Lunch hosted by British;
- 2.30 p.m. (approx) Plenary meeting;
- 4 p.m./5 p.m. (approx) End of meeting;

~~to Kelly~~
to see
please - to
Kirwan has
already seen
note.

copies sent to
D/S AM, D/Finance
D/Justice
(relevant
officials
only)

AJH
9/5/80

NB
Not
definite
yet:
framework
only

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5 p.m. : Press conferences

A detailed schedule for the visit would have to be drafted. (The above timetable is a preliminary outline only). Arrangements in regard to a press conference or press conferences would also have to be considered. The possibility of the Taoiseach hosting a dinner for selected British politicians and media representatives on the evening of the 21 May was also mentioned.

Question to be considered very carefully

Agenda for talks

3. The agenda for the meeting would most likely be in three parts as follows:-

- (1) bilateral matters (This section would be devoted in the main to Northern Ireland.)
- (2) EEC (The British Budget problem, agriculture and the Community Budget would arise under this section.)
- (3) international affairs (Olympics, Iran, Afghanistan, ~~etc.~~ *Middle East.*)

Northern Ireland matters

4. Discussion on Northern Ireland would be under the usual three headings - (1) political, (2) economic and (3) security. The emphasises would be on item (1).

Briefing material

5. The meeting considered that the brief for the forthcoming meeting should contain material on the items listed

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hereunder:-

(1) Political developments in Northern Ireland

The Department of Foreign Affairs were asked to prepare the usual paper in this regard together with a note analysing current British policy. It was agreed that Mr Neligan's note of 5 May should also be included under this heading.

(2) Economic situation in Ireland and in the UK

Mr O Duibhir was asked to arrange for the preparation of material on the subjects below which might come up in a preliminary "warming up" general discussion between the Taoiseach and Mrs Thatcher:

- prospects for British and Irish economies
- British Government economic policy (similarity with our economic policy and differences)
- interest rates, currency parities, including effects of EMS and North Sea oil.

It was agreed that material should be obtained on the industrial relations situation and legislative proposals in both countries. Mr Kirwan undertook to prepare material for replies by the Taoiseach to any questions from Mrs Thatcher on the sources of our industrial development successes.

(3) Economic co-operation

The Department of Foreign Affairs were asked to prepare appropriate briefing material under this heading.

(4) Northern Ireland economy

Mr O Duibhir, Department of Finance, was asked to prepare a note which would cover all aspects of the economic situation in Northern Ireland. (Decline in agricultural and industrial sectors, high dependence

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on service sector, comparison with economic situation in the rest of the country, emigration, etc.)

(5) Security co-operation

It was agreed that the note on security co-operation contained in the brief for the recent meeting with the Northern Ireland Secretary of State should be up-dated to take account of any more recent developments, together with information on the recent cases which have been activated under the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act. It was agreed that this matter would be followed up by the Department of the Taoiseach with the Department of Justice.

(6) Criminal Law Reform

It was agreed that a note should be obtained from the Department of Justice on the current position here with regard to the matters raised by the Northern Ireland Secretary of State at his meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs on 15 April. The recent approach by Mr B Smith of the British Embassy to the Department of Foreign Affairs in this regard was also relevant. It was agreed that the Department of the Taoiseach would obtain from the Department of Justice a briefing note on the various matters which have been raised ^{informally} in this context.

(7) Northern Ireland and the United States

It was agreed that an up-to-date paper under this heading should also be included in the brief.

General

6. Departments were asked to have the material referred to available not later than Wednesday, 14 May 1980.

D. Hurley
8 May 1980