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British Views

1. Venue in Britain
   Civil Service College, Sunningdale or R.A.F. Staff College, Brackwell.

2. British Invitation.

3. Governmental representation only.
   Northern Ireland Secretary, Foreign Secretary and junior Ministers ad hoc. Prime Minister to open, and in reserve.

4. 'Make or Break' Nature.
   One week. Agreed Communiqué.

5. British Chairman - Northern Ireland Secretary?

6. Verbatim text of proceedings
   Cash bar
   Other expenses borne by Britain

7. Sittings in Camera.
   Minimise media briefings.

8. Timing and Agenda left open for the present. No discussion of internment or policing.

Council of Ireland

British View

9. General British approach to Council of 'benevolent neutrality'.

Provisional Irish View

1. Venue in Northern Ireland.
   Same venues abroad.

2. Joint Invitation.

3. Agreed. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Attorney General and one other. Taoiseach to open and in reserve.

4. Agreed but no restriction on time.

5. Outside Chairman if at all possible. If not, rotating Chairman.

6. Agreed.

7. Exclude press completely. Prior agreement on bars on interviews. Agreed daily bulletin?

8. No restrictions on Agenda accepted at present.

9. Salutary but unacceptable in that the needs of the situation demand positive action from all participants; all reforms to date have been imposed by Britain over Unionist protest.
10. Further British-Irish talks to be held very shortly, covering, in the first instance the financing of a Council.

11. Reservations on Consultative Assembly.

12. Varying membership of Ministerial/Executive body a mistake.

13. Role of Council in relation to R.U.C. only discussable if similar role in relation to Gardaí agreed.


15. Acceptance of Northern Ireland. Need for something more than speeches.

PROPOSED ACTION: By Government

(a) Preliminary contact with Official Unionists on

   (a) details of a Conference and
   (b) the broad scope of our proposals for a Council of Ireland.

   By Government

(b) Further clarification of our position on

   (a) the Consultative Assembly and the Council's powers to evolve
   (b) policing and security cooperation generally, and
   (c) acceptance of Northern Ireland.

10. Agreed. Preliminary discussion between relevant Departments on financial and political responsibility of Council.

11. Reservations unacceptable but further clarification of our proposals advisable, at political level.

12. Permanent hard-core of Ministers plus others ad hoc

13. At present under discussion at the political level.

14. Will be forwarded. Should include material on reciprocal prosecutions?

15. Formulation of our detailed position desirable.
By Officials

(c) Preparation of a memorandum for transmission to the British on Human Rights and Common Courts.

By Officials

(d) Preparation of further position papers on the functions of a Council of Ireland and in particular, following consultation with relevant Government Departments, on the financial and political accountability of the Council, in preparation for a further round of official talks in London. A detailed case study of all the steps involved in allocating one function to the Council of Ireland is also being undertaken.