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ROINN AN TAOISIGH

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CONFIDENTIALAnglo-Irish SummitPreparatory Meeting, 7 October 1983

The meeting was held in the Conference Room, Government Buildings. The Taoiseach was accompanied by the Tanaiste and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Justice. Mr D Nally, Secretary to the Government, Mr S Donlon, Secretary, Mr M Lillis, Assistant Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr A Ward, Secretary, Department of Justice and Mr B McCarthy, Department of the Taoiseach were also present. The Agenda for the meeting is attached.

It was agreed that EEC matters would have to be discussed at the Summit but the formulation of our views will have to be considered further. The matter would be raised at the meeting with the Ministers for Finance and Agriculture which would take place later in the day.

The material relating to the Co-ordinating Committee of the AIIC was discussed. The Taoiseach proposed changes in the section dealing with economic co-operation and in the draft on the movements of certain fishing and other merchant vessels which is part of the security section of the Joint Studies. While the position in relation to voting rights for British citizens is set out in the Joint Studies Review document, it was felt that a reference to it might be made in the Communique. The Tanaiste confirmed that he would be ready to proceed with the legislation as soon as the Dail reconvened.

The North/South electricity interconnector was discussed and the difficulties in the way of restoring the link were explained. It was clear that the British, because of the security difficulties, were not enthusiastic. The Taoiseach said that he would wish to

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see a reference in the Review Document (in the section dealing with joint trade promotion activities) to the establishment of the Monitoring Committee on business opportunities North and South which he had agreed to following his meeting last May with the Northern Ireland Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions. The Taoiseach expressed disappointment that the Committee had not been established and asked that the matter be pursued urgently. Reservations were expressed on the involvement of British officials in the Committee.

As regards the delimitation of the Continental Shelf / ^{between} Britain and Ireland, it was noted that there were unlikely to be any significant developments in the near future which would permit a reference to be made to the matter in the Summit Communique. A Memorandum would be submitted to the Government at an early date.

Following discussion on the Joint Studies proposal in regard to a Parliamentary Tier, it was agreed that this would not be the most opportune time to raise the matter with the British even though we would wish to keep the matter 'on the agenda'. In the interim, it was felt that the existing interparliamentary links should be activated more and this is to be followed up.

On Northern Ireland, it was considered that some of the topics (political situation, security matters, new British initiative) might more appropriately be discussed during the private meeting with Mrs Thatcher. It would be necessary though to leave some substance for the plenary session. It was considered that, given the likely timescale for the completion of the work of the Forum, the date for the next Summit meeting would have to be timed for early Summer 1984. The matter could be discussed between the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister but it would be preferable not to make any reference to it in any draft Communique being discussed in advance with the British.

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It was explained that the meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee in London next week would discuss the outline of the **Summit Communique.** A suggested draft (copy attached) was circulated by the Department of Foreign Affairs. During a discussion on this draft, it was felt that the likely delegation on our side would be the Taoiseach, the Tanaiste and the Minister for Foreign Affairs but that this could be added to if it were thought advisable. The Minister for Foreign Affairs would mention the matter during his forthcoming meeting with the Secretary of State to get some idea of the likely composition of the British delegation. The Taoiseach said that the Communique should contain a reference to the fact that the structures for Anglo-Irish co-operation had now been established.

There was a detailed discussion on the implications of the **Dowra case** and the possible consequences of pursuing the matter to its conclusion. It was agreed that the course of action proposed by the Minister for Justice would be followed. I.e. that the Commissioner would send a letter on the terms agreed.

S. McCARTHY

7 October 1983

cc Mr D Waddy
Mr M. Lillis