



**An Chartlann Náisiúnta**  
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cc: PSM  
PSS  
Mr. Nally  
Mr. Beesman

02/1

2 pages.

Mr. Donoghue

Secure Fax 1163

24 September 1992

For: A/S O hUiginn

From: Joint Secretary

British Proposal for date of next Conference

1. We have been asked here this morning if we are in a position to respond to the dates proposed by the British last evening for the next Conference i.e. 13 November or 16 November in London (probably morning in either case). If you are in a position to give a signal on either date this afternoon, the British side say it would facilitate the Secretary of State's briefing of the Prime Minister if we could let him know.
2. Pending a decision on our side, we have been concerned not to allow any inference to be taken that we have already agreed to a six-week extension of the gap (although we understand this period was envisaged in discussion between the Prime Minister's Office and the Taoiseach's Department). In order to avoid any misunderstanding, we have given a note to the British side which I attach for convenience.
3. In the event that a timeframe is agreed tomorrow and a decision made to announce a date in the communique, the delegation will need to be in a position to consult diaries with the other side. I understand you are checking the availability of our Co-Chairman and the Minister for Justice. You may recall that forestry is on the draft agenda of the next Conference and that we anticipate that the Minister for Energy will attend for discussion of that subject. You may wish to check his availability also.

AIDE MEMOIRE FOR THE BRITISH SIDE

British proposal for date of next Conference

The British side have proposed that the next meeting of the Conference take place in London on Friday, 13 November or Monday, 16 November.

Part of the purpose of tomorrow's meeting between the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister is to consider the whole question of the length of gap between Conferences. We would prefer not to anticipate the views that the Taoiseach may express to the Prime Minister and, accordingly, we would propose that the matter be settled tomorrow.

We would point out that the last meeting of the Conference was held in London and that in the normal course the venue for the next Conference would be Belfast or, failing that, Dublin.

Declan O'Donovan  
24 September 1992