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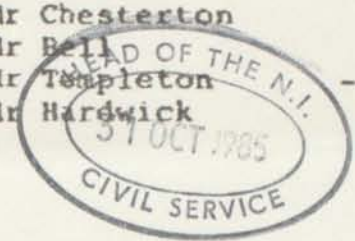
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PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (L&B) - M

cc: PS/Mr Scott (L&B) - M
PS/PUS (L&B) 11/10 - M
PS/Mr Bloomfield - M
Mr Brennan - M
Mr Gilliland - M
Mr Chesterton - M
Mr Bell of the N.I. - M
Mr Tompkinson - M
Mr Hardwick - M



ANGLO-IRISH TALKS - ORDER OF PLAY

In a preliminary discussion with Bernard Ingham yesterday, the following points became clear about the way he sees the 'ceremony' (whenever/wherever it comes).

- (1) The two Prime Ministers would each speak to the agreement - in essence to launch it - for 3/4 minutes.
- (2) The following press conference would have a target duration of 30 minutes.
- (3) Ingham would introduce the conference - simply stating the 'order of play' - and in consultation with Peter Prendergast try to ensure a good 'mix' of questions.
- (4) Signing, introductory remarks and press conference to be fully on-the-record and broadcast.
- (5) The timing of the announcement that the Summit was about to happen would depend totally on Security advice. At best it might be announced at No. 10's 11.00 Lobby Briefing the previous day - at worst (for journalists that is) confirmation might not come until the Prime Minister had almost arrived in the Province.

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- (6) There is no great enthusiasm in Downing Street for the idea of a press party to accompany the Prime Minister.
- (7) The Prime Minister has a long standing commitment to appear on LWE's "Weekend World" live on Sunday 17 November, a commitment not known about publicly. The Irish will have to be persuaded that this does not constitute a breach of the 'no interview' agreement over the weekend.
- (8) "Panorama" the following day (Monday 18) claim to have the Taoiseach's agreement to an interview - I suspect this is to make up for Dr FitzGerald's withdrawal from his promised appearance on the edition of 23 September.

Downing Street will reserve their position as late as possible about whether the Prime Minister might appear. There is presently no great enthusiasm for such an interview.

- (9) No. 10 are looking to the Secretary of State to brief the Westminster Lobby (this assumes a substantial number have not attended the actual ceremony) and the Sunday Lobby, likewise the American/European groups in London. Mr Gilliland, Mr Bell and I will be examining the logistics in detail this week.

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(10) Via the COI it is proposed to pipe a sound feed of ^{the} proceedings live to a variety of points in London - the NIO, the Foreign Press Association, the F.C.O. If the broadcasting organisations are on the ball there may well be live coverage of the ceremony on TV and radio as well.

(11) Not surprisingly Ingham has not yet focussed in any great detail on the 'big day' - it follows, therefore, that the points in this note are susceptible to change.

Andrew Wood

ANDREW WOOD

1 November 1985.

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