

PRIME MINISTER

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They are
asking for to much.
Possibly just in
deliberate.
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ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS: NORTHERN IRELAND

You are to have a short meeting after Cabinet with the Northern Ireland Secretary, Foreign Secretary and Sir Robert Armstrong. The main papers are in this folder.

The issues on which decisions are needed are:

No

i) The Irish Government are continuing to press for a commitment to establish Joint Courts. They are also seeking associated confidence-building measures in the context of an agreement including a community police force, declarations to be signed by the RUC recognising the validity of the two traditions in Northern Ireland, and changes in the UDR. We need to decide what you should say to the Taoiseach on these points when you meet in Milan. (Please see document at A).

The answers might be:

No

- joint courts. The most we can do is agree to study the possibility;
- confidence-building measures. This is a new complication and will take time to consider in detail. We are considering; No
- but a Community police force is something we have already examined and rejected. ✓

ii) timing of a further Summit. The Irish are showing an interest in having one in July. This is surely too soon and you will need to steer the Taoiseach firmly towards the autumn.

iii) what Douglas Hurd should say to the Unionists about the current discussions. The Irish are very keen that he

should say as little as possible. He feels that he must go further and has prepared himself a good speaking note. (Please see B). Is it agreed that he should use it?

iv) the Irish Government have raised the question of appointments to the Northern Ireland Police Authority. These have to be made by 29 June and are for three years. The Irish are worried that this will deprive them of the opportunity to comment on the appointments for a long period after an agreement is signed.

Douglas Hurd intends to go ahead with the necessary appointments but leave a few vacancies for the time being. His proposed response to the Irish is at C. Is it agreed?

C.D.P

C.D. Powell
19 June 1985