

PRIME MINISTER

NORTHERN IRELAND - CABINET

We are in an impossible position in advance of tomorrow's Cabinet at which Northern Ireland will be discussed.

First, Ireland is full of reports that the Anglo-Irish Summit will be held at Hillsbrough on Friday.

To play for time last week we said that the subject of Northern Ireland would again come to tomorrow's Cabinet.

The Irish Cabinet has met and is widely assumed to have approved an agreement; we are therefore left in the driving seat.

We are consistently saying that as and when there is an agreement we shall give the media due notice so that they have a chance of getting to its signing and the subsequent press conference. We plan to ring journalists at 7 am on Friday morning to alert them to the signing agreement and press conference.

To cope with the Cabinet tomorrow I suggest that the British Government says the following:

"The Cabinet today further discussed the possibility of an Anglo-Irish agreement. Any conclusion of the discussions will be announced as and when it is reached."

Content?

Martin Sawyer

pp. Bernard Ingham
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