

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ANGLO-IRISH ENCOUNTER

Thank you for your minute of 13 April.
The Prime Minister is content that you should
sound out Sir David Orr about his becoming
the British Chairman of the Anglo-Irish
Encounter.

A.J. COLES

15 April 1982



Prime Minister

Content that Sir R. Armstrong
should sound out Sir David Orr?

Ref. A08106

MR COLES

Yes not

A.J.C. $\frac{14}{4}$

Anglo-Irish Encounter

In the last paragraph of my minute of 26th March (Ref A07948) to the Prime Minister on Anglo-Irish Relations, I asked if I might sound Mr Nally to see whether we were clear to proceed with work on the Anglo-Irish Encounter.

2. As you will have seen from my letter of 6th April to John Humes, I had a conversation with Mr Nally in the margins of the European Council which made it clear that the new Taoiseach was content for this to go forward.

3. I should therefore be grateful for authority to sound Sir David Orr about his becoming the British chairman. He would be very well suited to the job; and I should like to approach him before he gets too heavily committed to other things when he leaves Unilever next month.

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

13th April 1982

A. J. Coles, Esq.

Ireland



CABINET OFFICE

With the compliments of
Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO
Secretary of the Cabinet

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Telephone: 01-233 8319

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(4)



Prime Minister

CABINET OFFICE

MR 7/4

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 8319

From the Secretary of the Cabinet: Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO

MR 13/4

Ref.. A08049

6th April, 1982

on attached Euro Council file at flap

John Coles wrote to you on 30th March to record the Prime Minister's meeting with the Taoiseach on 30th March.

Later that same morning, Mr. Nally returned for a conversation with me. He told me that, so far as the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council was concerned, the message was "business as usual" - if you can talk about usual for something which has only just begun. The Taoiseach regarded the Council as springing from the initiative which the Prime Minister and he took in Dublin in December 1980. The next day's meeting between Mr. Prior and Mr. Collins could therefore be in the framework of the AIIC. We ought to think before long of holding a meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee.

Mr. Nally said that Mr. Haughey would be content for work to go forward on the Anglo-Irish Encounter, though he did not know whether Mr. Haughey would share Mr. FitzGerald's preference for Dr. Whittaker as the Irish Chairman. Mr. Nally said that Mr. Haughey would want to put the main emphasis on an Anglo-Irish Parliamentary body. I said that he would find the Prime Minister sticking very much to the position she took in November 1981: that it was for the Parliaments concerned to decide whether and when they wanted to establish such a body.

Mr. Nally and I reverted briefly to the question of the date of the next Summit, noting that it could not be before July. We agreed that arrangements for that should be left to be made through the usual channels.

I am sending copies of this letter to John Coles and Stephen Boys-Smith.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

John Holmes, Esq.

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7 APR 1982

