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Foreign & Commonwealth Office

8 June 1993

London SW1A 2AH



UK/Irish Bilateral: Wednesday, 16 June

Thank you for your letter of June. We agree with your suggestions for the UK side, except that Sir David Gillmore (who is unavailable) might be represented by Sir Timothy Daunt.

The Taoiseach will want to have a short tete a tete with the Prime Minister and we recommend that the Prime Minister agree to this. Our advice is that the other four Ministers should have a discussion between themselves while the Taoiseach and Prime Minister are meeting and that the two sides should then meet in plenary before drinks and supper. The Northern Ireland Secretary concurs with this.

The programme might then be:

1800	Arrival at No 10 Photocall
1805	Tete a Tete (with other Ministers meeting Green Room separately)
1830	Plenary
1930	Downing Street Doorstep Drinks
1945-2100	Working Supper

The Foreign Secretary will need to leave for his dinner engagement at around 1900. The Prime Minister may therefore wish to take EC questions at the beginning of the plenary so that the Foreign Secretary can be present for that part of the discussion.

It has become customary for the two Prime Ministers to talk to the press as part of these regular bilaterals and our advice is to continue the normal pattern. We therefore recommend that the doorstep should be after the plenary discussion, despite this being a little late for newspaper deadlines.

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I am copying this letter to Jonathan Stephens (Northern Ireland Office) and Melanie Leech (Cabinet Office).

your are, Gredu

(J S Smith)

Private Secretary

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