

From: RODERIC LYNE
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PRIME MINISTER

DUBLIN MEETING

Without having a row, I have agreed on the following arrangements:

- a format of the meeting should be relatively flexible, and geared to the wishes of the principals and the aim of making substantive progress;
- when discussions reached a certain level of detail, you were likely to propose a move into a wider format;
- I would accompany you, as note-taker;
- after the initial 15-minute gathering of the two Ministerial delegations and photocall, you and the Taoiseach would probably have a bilateral meeting for the 60-75 minutes up to lunchtime (lunch is scheduled for 1245). This might be largely an exercise in the broad politics;
- lunch would be with your senior colleagues;
- the afternoon session would probably be in plenary.

Irish Times

I attach a cutting from today's Irish Times. It is worth a careful read. The briefing may well have been given by Reynolds in person, as he gave a background chat to a group of journalists yesterday after an interview. It certainly has the flavour of Reynolds talking big. You will see that his first objective is to assess whether you have the will to produce a formula for peace.

He also thinks that the agreement to a series of meetings will make it "difficult, if not politically and diplomatically impossible" for you to abandon the prospects for peace in favour of a Parliamentary understanding with the Unionists. The briefing yet again suggests that Reynolds has little real concern with the need to carry Unionists as well as the Nationalists if the peace process is to succeed.

Dick Spring

An account of the Foreign Secretary's conversation with Spring is attached. Spring is more realistic about the Unionists, and perhaps more flexible on the Convention.

Self-Determination

A telegram from David Blatherwick commenting on Reynolds's public use of the self-determination formula (omitting two key words) attached.

Robin Eames

You should glance at the account from Eames of his meeting yesterday morning with Reynolds. Eames armed you with specific points to make if Reynolds misrepresents his position on the Convention.

Hume

Hume's letter is also attached. He met Sir P. Mayhew this evening. Urged him to take this opportunity for peace etc.

RALINE

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