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1. MR BUDD
2. MR HOLMES
-

CRB 7/5

Letter to issue as
neededJh
9/5

cc Ms Polley

VISIT OF THE TAOISEACH, 8 MAY: EAST/WEST ISSUES

You have a copy of the Taoiseach's statement of 5 May about his forthcoming meeting with the Prime Minister. His statement centred on East/West issues, in particular:

- the Irish in Britain;
- education (information technology and general bilateral links);
- employee training;
- organised crime;
- homelessness;
- food safety;
- the environment (including Selafield and the Irish Sea).

2. As you know, our contacts with the Irish on East/West matters are already well established, and it is good to see the Irish responding so positively. In terms of **briefing** for the Prime Minister, we would add nothing to the FCO's briefing. None of the matters mentioned in the statement should cause problems, and some are already the subject of bilateral discussions. This is clearly not the occasion for a substantive discussion, and we agree with the FCO that the work should be remitted to officials in the Cabinet Office and the Taoiseach's office to take forward.

3. As to **handling**, we think that it would help give this exercise greater impetus within Whitehall if you were to write to all private offices after the meeting to encourage them to

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participate in developing the East/West dialogue. We will then pick this up at official level, using the official committee on Anglo-Irish Relations (AI) which is already in place.

4. I attach a draft note, which, with any appropriate modification in the light of the meeting, you might like to send out after the meeting.



N C SANDERSON

7 May 1997

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