



Top PS
cc JCH dr

Foreign Secretary

file
per 4/8

UK/IRISH RELATIONS

I am responding to your minute of 16 July to the Prime Minister referring to ways in which it might be possible to build upon the agreement reached with the Taoiseach on the need to develop a wider Anglo-Irish relationship. I have also seen Mr Holmes' letter of 22 July reporting the Prime Minister's support for such efforts.

2 You refer in particular to the development of a sustained dialogue with the Irish Justice Department. On 16 July my Permanent Secretary together with senior colleagues met their Irish opposite numbers in the Department of Justice to discuss a number of areas of mutual interest. It proved to be a very profitable meeting with agreement being reached to exchange further information on national experience in a range of areas.

3 Joyce Quin held a very positive meeting with Philip McDonough and Brian Mulligan of the Irish Embassy on 16 July to discuss a broad range of issues related to Irish prisoners held in England and Wales. I also intend to invite the Irish Justice Minister to London, I hope later this year.

4 I am copying this minute to recipients of yours.

J.S.

1st Aug. 1997