

Ref: BO.2398

MR HOLMES

B/F 1 Dec

PRB

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Philip

Paddy Treacher has already raised this with me, for Northern Ireland rather than East-West reasons. We will have to do it. Can you pursue? (I'll avoid the morning slot, when I am likely to be discussing the matter with Leiffert & Bittelich)

### DISCUSSIONS WITH THE IRISH ON EAST/WEST MATTERS

At my meeting with the Irish today, led by Wally Kirwan (Taoiseach's Office), they proposed that, as on past occasions, the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister should meet briefly (10 minutes) in the margins of the Luxembourg Summit on 12/13 December.

2. Apart from discussing progress in the Talks, they might (as at Noordwijk on 23 May) issue a short (one-page) statement reporting moves forward on East/West co-operation. The statement itself might centre around one of the issues mentioned in the Noordwijk statement, namely co-operation on the use of information technology in education; and it could also highlight the wide-ranging nature of Government and NGO co-operation and activity. The statement would cover two other documents: a summary of progress on East/West co-operation since May; and a fuller report on the totality of East/West co-operation.

3. If time could be found at Luxembourg for this, it would raise the profile in a way which would be helpful to the Irish - who see some aspects of this work as contributing towards Nationalist confidence-building in the Northern Ireland peace process. It would also be helpful to us in encouraging other Government Departments here to contribute fully to the exercise.

4. Messrs. Budd and Bender support this idea. If the Prime Minister agrees, it would be helpful if this slot could be worked into his timetable for Luxembourg. We would inform the Irish accordingly.

5. I am copying this to Dominick Chilcott (FCO) Ken Lindsay (NIO), and Jan Polley and Brian Bender (Cabinet Office).

Philip

Quite right my fault. I didn't notice the date in this note.

MPakenham

John

10 November 1997

MICHAEL PAKENHAM  
But in any case we do need a bit at next week, + the bit have shed for all.

This letter of 12/13 December. Do you also want a bit at next week?

Philip

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