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10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

4 November 1996

*Dear Dominick,*

**VISIT BY THE TAOISEACH**

We have discussed the timing of the Taoiseach's visit to London, as part of his pre-European Council tour of capitals. The Prime Minister has now agreed to offer lunch to the Taoiseach on 9 December. We might therefore aim for talks beginning at 1100, followed by a working lunch at 1230 or so. There will presumably also need to be some kind of press conference, perhaps in Downing Street, following the lunch.

As we have discussed, the aim will be to cover with Bruton not only the European Council issues, but also Northern Ireland, depending on where events are by then, and any Anglo-Irish business, given that we have not had a formal Anglo-Irish Summit this year.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that this arrangement will suit the Irish side in broad terms. We will then need to establish a more detailed agenda and think about participation on both sides.

This means we will need to rearrange the timing of the call by the President of Angola, probably into the afternoon. We will be in touch about that separately.

I am copying this to Ken Lindsay (Northern Ireland Office), Jan Polley (Cabinet Office) and Veronica Sutherland in Dublin by fax.

*Yours are*

**JOHN HOLMES**

Dominick Chilcott Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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