



10 DOWNING STREET

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THE PRIME MINISTER

25 November 1981

Dear Mr. Wilson,

You wrote to me on 10 November about the title of the new body which the Taoiseach and I have decided to set up to provide a formal framework for consultations between our two Governments. It is called the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council to make clear that the relationship is between the two Governments. On our side this clearly refers - indeed can only refer - to the Government of the United Kingdom.

I have considered your point carefully, but I think it fair to say that, as regards the term "Anglo", when hyphenated with another national adjective ("French" or "American", for instance) it has become common usage that it denotes the United Kingdom as a whole, and it is very much the exception rather than the rule to use it to refer to England alone. There are direct precedents: it has never been suggested that the Anglo-Irish Free Trade Agreement excluded Scotland and Wales, let alone Northern Ireland. I certainly cannot accept your allegation that the title of the new inter-governmental body could be construed as insulting to any of those, whether they be from Scotland, Wales, England or Northern Ireland, who have been injured or killed in the course of peace-keeping duties in Northern Ireland.

/You

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You mentioned the many sacrifices made by soldiers from Scotland and Wales. My Ministerial colleagues and I have expressed many times our admiration and gratitude for the way in which the security forces, which are drawn from throughout the United Kingdom, have carried out their dangerous duties. The aim of our policies, including that of co-operation with the Irish Government in the fight against terrorism, is to bring about a situation where such sacrifices are no longer needed.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

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Gordon Wilson, Esq., M.P.