



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

23 December, 1982.

Dear Enoch,

Thank you for your letter of 16 December in which you drew my attention to press reports about a possible meeting between myself and the new Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland.

As I said in my written answer to Harvey Proctor on 30 November there are no plans for such a meeting at present. Our future relations with the Republic will inevitably depend on the attitude of the new government. But there can be no foundation for the suggestion that a meeting between myself and the Taoiseach would affect the commitments which the government has given about the constitutional status of the Province. It is part of the United Kingdom. These commitments remain the basis of our consideration of all aspects of Northern Ireland policy and they remain entirely firm. The position will not be compromised in any meetings I may have with Dr. FitzGerald.

Yours sincerely
Harold Wilson

The Rt. Hon. Enoch Powell, M.B.E., M.P.