

Prime Minister

NORTHERN IRELAND

1. JEP came to see me, at his request, yesterday.
2. He says that there is a new unity in Northern Ireland - a unity of fear, in both Communities, about the further suffering which is in prospect.
3. John Hume is considering the possibility of getting all the SDLP Members of the Assembly to resign. PR does not, in effect, operate for by-Elections and the vacancies to the Assembly would be filled on the first past the post system. In that way, the Unionists would be likely to win, thus making even more ludicrous Jim's assertion that there must be cross Community representation in the Assembly.
4. I think it quite likely that Jim Molyneux will, over the weekend, himself suggest that Members of the Assembly should meet next week, unofficially, and before the official opening (foreshadowed for 11th November) in order to approve a motion calling on the Secretary of State not to convene the Assembly. Apparently Molyneux believes that only Paisley and the Democratic Unionists would vote against such a motion.
5. Herewith a copy of the Northern Ireland Act 1982. You will see that the provisions relating to dissolution appear in Section 5.

29th October 1982

IAN GOW