

Pattie Minister.

This can only be described as unbalanced.

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INTERVIEW ON THE "WORLD AT ONE" WITH THE RT. HON. ENOCH POWELL, M.P.,  
WEDNESDAY, 10 DECEMBER

(Interviewer: Robin Day)

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I asked Mr. Powell first if he had any idea or hunch as to what the Thatcher/Haughey talks really mean.

EP: I don't think we've heard everything yet which transpired. And very often the most important parts of an iceberg are under the surface. But I would have thought the public themselves were in a position to form a fair judgment by seeing the Prime Minister and three senior members of the British Government go across to hob-nob with the Prime Minister of a country which actually claims sovereignty over a part of the United Kingdom and come away with an agreed Communique almost dictated in his own language. I think they'll form their own opinion about that, though maybe they'll form it more swiftly about this mini-Munich than they did about the major Munich in 1938. But I don't know. That remains to be seen.

RD: On what grounds do you describe it as a 'mini-Munich'?

EP: Because it's a visible humiliation of the Government of the United Kingdom to go and hob-nob, as I say, with a nation which claims sovereignty over part of its territory and to discuss with it the internal affairs of part of the United Kingdom, namely, the management of Her Majesty's Prisons.

RD: Now, you notice that Mr. Haughey has said that these talks achieved an historic breakthrough ..

EP; Well, ..... disastrous.

RD: I was going on about that. And the Joint Communique says that the talks were extremely constructive and significant. Now, don't these words, allowing for a Communique jargon, suggest that something big is going on behind the scenes and we're not being told?

/EP: They



EP: They certainly suggest that the United Kingdom is being sold out. There is no doubt who's pleased about it and there's no doubt who stands to gain from it. Obviously the Irish Prime Minister in his forthcoming elections. That does give it a certain resemblance to the major events of 1938. I suppose being a mini nation now we can only have mini-Munichs. But they're still just as shameful and humiliating.

RD: But on what grounds are you suggesting that these talks mean that the United Kingdom is being sold out? I take your point about 'hob-nobbing in Dublin' but that in itself - because talks like this have happened before - that does not, in itself, prove a sell-out.

EP: Well, I don't know about that because if I were dealing with the leader of a country which claims sovereignty over part of the United Kingdom I'd tell him if he wanted to talk to me he'd better come to my capital.

RD: But it's not the first time British Ministers have gone to Dublin to talk?

EP: No. It's not the first time that British Ministers have failed to understand the trap in which they involve themselves when dealing in this way with the Irish public.

RD: What do you understand by this curious Community phrase about 'special consideration will be given' and I quote 'to the totality of relations between these islands'? What do you think that means?

EP: Well, that's fluffed. So that the Irish can interpret it as meaning the relationship of the Province of Ulster with the Irish Republic and so that the British Prime Minister - at any rate until the Foreign Office take her for another ride - can maintain that it's only concerned with the relationships between the United Kingdom as such and the Irish Republic as such.

/RD: May



RD: May I put to you a supposition, Mr. Powell? And, of course, I know even less about what happened than you do.

EP: I doubt it.

RD: Well, supposing the Government's idea was to create a new relationship - perhaps by treaty - between the Republic and the UK, and the UK, including, of course, Northern Ireland, with certain new institutions to deal with common cross-border problems. Would such a scheme, or one like it, would that be odious to the Ulster majority?

EP: That would depend on how they dealt with what problems. For example, if it meant that the Irish Republic removed from its constitution the clause on which, of course, all the activity of the IRA and all the opponents of the union are based, which asserts that Northern Ireland is part of the territory of a Republic - if they did that. And if they agreed to extradite to the United Kingdom those who are on criminal charges in the United Kingdom. If that was the attitude, if that was going to be the arrangement, then I'm sure everyone would welcome it, including Ulster.

RD: Perhaps that has been part of the historic breakthrough of which Mr. Haughey talks?

EP: Well, if you'll believe that, you'll believe anything, especially after reading the Communique.

RD: Do you not fear a time, Mr. Powell, when the British public may lose patience with the overwhelming Ulster majority if they are seen to obstruct a possible way of going forward to peace?

EP: Yes, of course. If they were obstructing the maintenance of law and order and of the enforcement of the Queen's laws throughout the United Kingdom, then I would say they didn't deserve to be part of the United Kingdom. But if that majority



says to Parliament in which it is shortly going to be fully represented .. it is already substantially represented .. if it says to Parliament 'We accept the laws which Parliament makes. We accept the United Kingdom as our nation. We want the same rights - no more, no less - and the same treatment for everyone in Northern Ireland as in the rest of the United Kingdom' then I say that whatever people imagine, they would find when they came to it that it would be impossible to expel their fellow subjects from their own country.