



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister.

ANGLO/IRISH STUDY GROUPS

1. Herewith copy of my letter to Humphrey Atkins dated 18th February.
2. Enoch came to see me this afternoon.
3. He says that he fears that much of the success which you achieved ~~for~~ for Belfast in dispelling Unionist fears of a sell-out has been damaged by the reported remarks of the Irish Foreign Minister.
4. Enoch (or possibly Jim Molyneaux) have in mind to ask you the following Question on Thursday:-

"Is the Prime Minister able to tell the House how many subjects have been authorised for discussion by the Anglo/Irish Study Groups, and what those subjects are?"

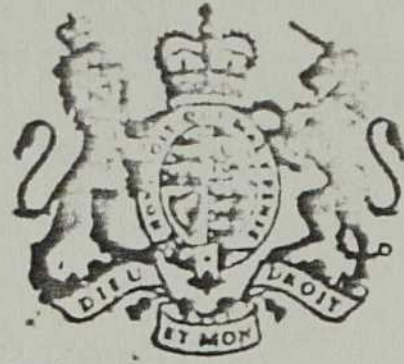
5. I have the impression that if you felt that the timing of such a question for 26th March was not right, then the question would be deferred. However, I do not think that the Official Unionists will agree to defer such a question for very long.
6. I have not seen the Northern Irish newspapers, but for my part I think that if you were able to answer this question as soon as possible and as specifically as possible that would be helpful in dispelling those further anxieties which have undoubtedly been aroused in Northern Ireland by the remarks of the Irish Foreign Minister.
7. I understand, of course, that you and Houghy have different "constituents" to beqar in mind, and that any such reply would, in effect, have to be agreed in advance with Dublin.
8. This issue will not just fade away.

24th March, 1981

Ian Gow.

C.C. MICHAEL ALEXANDER.





10 DOWNING STREET

Private & Confidential.

18th February, 1981

I write to confirm our conversation last week.

Enoch Powell told me that if and when you judge the moment to be right, he would ask the Prime Minister an Oral Question along the following lines:-

"In connection with the discussions now taking place between the Governments of the United Kingdom and of the Irish Republic, is the Prime Minister able to say whether those discussions will include the delineation of the border in the two Loughs, and the extradition of citizens in the Republic charged with crimes committed in the United Kingdom?"

We cannot, of course prevent Enoch (or Jim Molyneaux) asking such a question at any time, and I think that it would be helpful to continue to have their co-operation, if possible, so far as time is concerned.

May I leave it to you, please to let me know if and when you think that the moment is ripe?

Ian Gow

The Rt. Hon. Humphrey Atkins, M.P.