



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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Original in Ireland
Structuring Force heads
PHIO.

6th Nov. '81

Dear Prime Minister,

Before your meeting today with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland I wish to remind you again of your repeated pledge in the House of Commons and elsewhere that the affairs and future of Northern Ireland are the concern only of your Government, the Parliament of this United Kingdom and the people of Northern Ireland.

By and since the Dublin Summit of 8th. December 1980 you appear to me and the Unionist people of Northern Ireland, whom I represent, to have broken that pledge. By embarking upon Joint Studies with Dublin in respect of "the totality of relationships within these islands" the affairs and future of Northern Ireland have inevitably become the subject of negotiation with Dublin. Naturally great constitutional uncertainty and unease have resulted in Northern Ireland, which have not been mitigated by words of assurance as these are repudiated by continuing contrary action.

The people of Northern Ireland ask only to be allowed to live their lives within the United Kingdom in peace and security. We neither seek nor want any say in the affairs or future of the Republic of Ireland and all we ask from Dublin is reciprocation.

I would be failing in my duty if I did not remind you that there are simply no circumstances in which the people of Northern Ireland will either accept or acquiesce in any involvement by the Republic of Ireland in the affairs of their Province. Therefore an Anglo/Irish Council, which has been mooted in recent weeks, would meet with the united, relentless and unqualified opposition of the Unionists of Northern Ireland, as such a body would inevitably confer on the Republic influence and control over the affairs and future upon part of this United Kingdom.

The suggested All-Ireland Court would be equally anathema to my people as they would see it as an overt and giant step towards the creation of an All Ireland State. Since the judicial system is such an inherent



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part of the administration of any state the creation of an All Ireland Court would destroy the constitutional sovereignty of Northern Ireland as part of this United Kingdom. Therefore no member of the Republic's Judiciary must ever be allowed to exercise any jurisdiction over Northern Ireland. Only straight forward extradition will ever solve the problem of cross border terrorism. I have no doubt that your Government is quite capable of securing this from the Republic and therefore I urge you to concentrate on doing so.

I also wish to take this opportunity to restate to you our opposition to the creation of any all Ireland institution under the guise of economic co-operation. Northern Ireland's natural economic links are with the rest of the United Kingdom and it would be intolerable to foster alternative artificial links with the Republic since such would not be a means in themselves but rather a means to ^{an} end of encouraging political unification in Ireland.

Normal economic cooperation between neighbouring states, quite properly has its place, and, indeed, has always existed between Northern Ireland and the Republic, but such does not require the formalised institutions which are reported to have been recommended by the Joint Studies. Cooperation between ~~the two~~ political Units so that eventually the two might be one is utterly unacceptable, and, since this is the self confessed motivation of the Republic in seeking cooperation with Northern Ireland, I trust you will begin to appreciate and respect the views of the people of Northern Ireland on this subject.

I therefore urge you to abandon any motion that through economic fusion in Ireland there can be induced political fusion. The unalterable antipathy of the people of Northern Ireland to any political involvement by or with the Republic of Ireland is absolute and is only too capable of tangible manifestation if you today seek to force Northern Ireland down a road which it will never go.



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Surely as Prime Minister of this United Kingdom you have a bounden duty to protect the sovereignty and unity of the Kingdom and, therefore, to day I urge you to discharge that duty firmly and unequivocally by refusing to countenance anything which involves foreigners in the affairs of our state or which weakens, or is capable of weakening, Northern Ireland's position as a integral part of the United Kingdom. I can but conclude by saying that should you fail in this your duty then the Ulster Unionists will not fail in their resulting duty to take whatever steps are necessary to defend their citizenship, heritage and rights.

Sincerely
Tom R. K. Paisley