

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

Bryan Cartledge Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

18 June 1979

Dear Bryan

REV IAN PAISLEY

You wrote to Joe Pilling on 12 June asking for advice on Rev Ian Paisley's telegram to the Prime Minister asking for an urgent meeting to discuss the future security of Ulster.

My Secretary of State takes the view that it is neither necessary nor desirable for the Prime Minister to accede to this request. Were she to do so, it could well be difficult to refuse a similar facility to other Northern Ireland Party Leaders. Mr Atkins does not feel that Dr Paisley's recent success in the election to the European Parliament justifies giving him special treatment.

Dr Paisley has already had one talk with my Secretary of State, at which he made a number of comments on the security situation; but the Prime Minister may like to indicate in her reply that Mr Atkins will of course soon be seeing him again and will listen to any further points which Dr Paisley may wish to make.

I am sending copies of this letter to Paul Lever (FCO), Roger Facer (MOD) and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

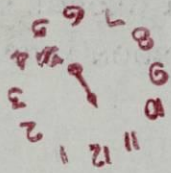
Yours sincerely
Mike Hopkins

M W HOPKINS

NORTHERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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