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Ireland

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 November 1979

DR. IAN PAISLEY

We spoke on the telephone late last night about the question of a meeting between the Prime Minister and Dr. Paisley to discuss security in Northern Ireland.

I enclose for your records a note of the conversation which took place on the telephone earlier yesterday evening between Dr. Paisley and Nick Sanders of this Office. Following receipt of Dr. Paisley's message, I spoke with Ken Stowe and the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister said that, notwithstanding the line in her letter to Dr. Paisley of 5 November, she would be prepared to see Dr. Paisley, Mr. Molyneaux and Mr. Fitt separately. I therefore rang Dr. Paisley at home at 2245 last night and, having apologised for any lack of clarity there might have been in the text of the Prime Minister's letter, said that the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State would, of course, be prepared to see him on his own. Dr. Paisley said he would get in touch with me on Monday to fix a time. He added that in the light of my call, the way was now clear for him to meet this morning with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland as planned.

I made it clear to Dr. Paisley that the Prime Minister would be offering to see Mr. Molyneaux and Mr. Fitt on the same subject and that the order in which the meetings took place would depend on diary considerations. Dr. Paisley raised no objection to this.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

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