



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
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LONDON SW1P 3AJ

SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND

Hugh L Carey Esq
Governor
State of New York
Executive Chamber
Albany 12224

23 August 1979

Dear Governor,

P.A.
J.M.
24/8

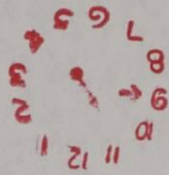
Thank you for your letter of 6 August. As I told you when we met in London, the United Kingdom Government welcomes the interest you have shown over the problems of Northern Ireland, in particular your staunch stand against terrorism. It is however clear from the terms of your letter that the meeting which you envisage would be - and could not fail to be - a meeting to discuss and indeed negotiate about the political future of Northern Ireland, a part of the United Kingdom.

I am sure you will understand that it would be wrong for a Minister of Her Majesty's Government to take part in a discussion of that nature in the United States or indeed anywhere else outside the United Kingdom. Her Majesty's Government recognise the deep interest of Irish people wherever they may be in the problems of Northern Ireland. However, as I made clear in the statement I issued on 7 August following your own public statement in New York, the political future of Northern Ireland is a matter for negotiation between Her Majesty's Government, the Parliament at Westminster and the people of the Province.

Thank you for coming to see me - I enjoyed what was for me a valuable discussion when we met in London, and I look forward to seeing you again.

Yours sincerely

Humphrey Atkins



24 AUG 1979