

From JAMES H. MOLYNEUX, J.P., M.P. for Antrim, South.

Confidential



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

4 February, 1981.

Dear Prime Minister

See Ireland: Pt 3. Mags with
Taironeach: Anglo-Irish Protocol

Thank you for your reply of 23 January, which was much appreciated. It was followed within a few days by your written answer to P. Robinson on Monday last and supplementary answer to I. Paisley yesterday.

Short of saying so explicitly, you could not have made it clearer that the Government does not intend to include in the joint studies with the Republic, let alone to make a condition precedent to them, discussion of the territorial claim to Ulster in the Republic's constitution or of the Republic's refusal to accept the international duty of extraditing persons wanted for terrorist offences in Ulster.

I am at a loss to see how anyone could fail to understand the clear message of this to the people of Northern Ireland, namely, that the Government regard Ulster's place in the United Kingdom as expendable and that they are willing to see the terrorist campaign against the province continue from the safe bases which the Republic affords. It is not surprising that more and more people believe that Britain and perhaps the USA are seeking advantages from the Republic at the price of the Union. What neither they nor I can do is to reconcile this with your declaration, which you will recall and which I would still want to think sincere, of being "rock firm for the Union".

Yours ever
Jim

The Right Honourable Mrs Margaret Thatcher, MP.,
10 Downing Street,
London, SW1.