



SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND

EXCHEQUER	
15 APR 1983	
TO	
BY	
DATE	
NO.	
TO	
BY	
DATE	
NO.	

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

1. cc Chancellor.
2. Mr. Ridley.
[Signature]

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
Parliament Street
LONDON SW1P 3AG

15 April 1983

NORTHERN
IRELAND
OFFICE

[Handwritten signature]

I enclose a passage on Northern Ireland for the Manifesto.

I have discussed this with my Ministerial colleagues in the NIO and it reflects all our views on what we ought to say. We must avoid getting ourselves on any hooks and, while making our commitments and approach clear, I doubt if we will be helped by turning Northern Ireland into a contentious electoral issue. The wording reflects these points.

[Handwritten signature]

MANIFESTO

In Northern Ireland, building upon the courage, commitment and increasing success of our security forces we will give the highest priority to upholding law and order. We will continue to give the support essential for the Province to overcome its economic difficulties.

The people of Northern Ireland will continue to be offered a framework for participation in local democracy and political progress through the Assembly. There will be no change in Northern Ireland's constitutional position in the United Kingdom without the consent of the majority of people there and no devolution of powers without widespread support throughout the community.

Relations between the two sides of the Northern Ireland community inevitably influence, and are affected by, relations between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. We therefore believe that a close practical working relationship with the Government of the Republic can contribute to peace and stability in Northern Ireland without threatening in any way the position of the majority community in the Province.



N.B.

The letters included here include revised texts from Sir K Joseph & Mr Roper which arrived too late to be fully reflected in the Draft Manifesto.