

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

(2) GREAT GEORGE STREET,  
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

*Prime Minister*

*As Prime mentioned this to you briefly.*

*Paul*

Michael Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON  
SW1

*MS*

12 November 1981

*Dear Michael,*

The Prime Minister may like to know that my Secretary of State has decided that, as a way of pre-empting the more extreme Protestant opposition in Northern Ireland, and with a view to calming fears among moderates which last week's meeting with the Prime Minister of the Republic may have aroused, he will hold a Press Conference in Belfast on Friday morning. In this he will be emphasising that the London/Dublin talks are primarily an East/West matter, but that he is looking for legitimate benefits - particularly in the economic field - for Northern Ireland as a result of the closer relations between the two Governments. He will also make it quite clear that, while any interested party is at liberty to argue that the Government's policy is wrong, he will not countenance force or threats of force. This last point is of course aimed directly at the kind of noises which Dr Paisley has made on one or two occasions recently.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Roderic Lyne (FCO).

*Yours,  
S W Smith*

S W BOYS SMITH

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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