

MR. PATTISON

MAP

NORTHERN IRELAND

You raised the question of whether the draft Bill should be annexed to the White Paper. After some discussion with the Northern Ireland Office in the course of today, I have confirmed to Mr. Boys Smith the Prime Minister's view - namely that the statement and the White Paper should go ahead on Monday without a Bill. If Members expressed a wish to see a Bill before debate, the Northern Ireland Secretary should undertake to publish one (without at this stage saying whether it would be a Bill in proper form or a draft).

A.J.C. 4/4.

4 April 1982