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CR.
Ireland
file

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 April 1982

Dear Stephen

Mike Hopkins wrote to me yesterday, recording certain changes from the Cabinet conclusions on the handling of your Secretary of State's proposals for Northern Ireland. He recorded your Secretary of State's intention to make a statement yesterday, and publish a White Paper, but to defer introduction of the Bill until after Easter, following consultation with colleagues over the weekend.

I understand that your Secretary of State this morning expressed a strong preference for holding to the original timetable for the Bill, under which he would have given notice today, leading to introduction and first reading tomorrow. We consulted the Prime Minister about this in the course of the morning, and she asked that your Secretary of State hold to yesterday's decision, with the result that the Bill should not be introduced before Easter. I understand that your Secretary of State accepted this decision.

I am sending copies of this letter to David Heyhoe (Lord President's Office), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office) and Michael Pownall (Government Whips' Office, House of Lords).

Yours ever

Mike Pattison

Stephen Boys-Smith, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.

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