

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
GREAT GEORGE STREET,  
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

John Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

16 September 1982

*Dear Tom,*

Your letter of 6 September asked for advice as to whether the Prime Minister should meet the Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. I am sorry not to have been able to reply sooner.

As you will see from the draft, we consider that a meeting at No 10 would serve no useful purpose at this stage and would suggest that any points that NIC/ICTU wish to raise ought to be put to Mr Prior at their meeting on Monday (arranged some time ago to discuss youth training provision).

*Yours sincerely  
Mike Hopkins*

M W HOPKINS

Pl Type

DRAFT LETTER

FILE NUMBER.....

ADDRESSEE'S REFERENCE.....

To	Enclosures	Copies to be sent to
<p>Terry Carlin Esq  Northern Ireland Officer  Northern Ireland Committee  Irish Congress of Trade Unions  1/9 Castle Arcade,  Belfast BT1 5DG</p> <p>(Full Postal Address)</p>		

LETTER DRAFTED FOR SIGNATURE BY PS./PRIME MINISTER  
(Name of Signatory)

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 3 September in which you ask to meet her to discuss employment and the prospects for the Northern Ireland economy.

The Prime Minister is fully alive to many problems, both economic and social, which exist in the Province and appreciates the great difficulties which its people have had to face for such a long time. Indeed she remembers that at your last meeting with her, you presented the case for Northern Ireland most forcibly.

Mrs Thatcher regrets however that, because of her existing commitments, she will not be able to meet you on this occasion. Rather, she would like to suggest that the points which you wish to make be put directly to the Secretary of State who, she understands, has a meeting with you at Stormont Castle on Monday.

BB