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de re

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

24 October 1983

Anglo/Irish Summit

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr. James Molyneaux, MP, arguing that the holding of the Summit will bring "disastrous consequences" to Northern Ireland.

NIO dealing B.F.

I should be grateful if you would let me have a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature by 27 October.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to John Lyon (Northern Ireland Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

P.F. Ricketts, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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# Ulster Unionist Council

Unionist Headquarters  
3 Glengall Street, Belfast, BT12 5AE  
Telephone Belfast 224601 (3 lines)

22 October 1983

The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

Prime Minister

we will let you have a  
ref. A.S.C. 24/10.

Dear Prime Minister

It is widely reported but not, I think, officially confirmed that you intend in the next few weeks to hold a meeting with the Premier of the Irish Republic in continuation of those held with him and his predecessor in November 1981 and December 1980 respectively. I thought therefore I should not delay any longer before representing to you the disastrous consequences which such a meeting would entail upon Northern Ireland.

You will be aware that the arrangements to which you agreed at the previous meetings were seen by the Irish Republic and widely interpreted elsewhere as intended - if I may use the words in the Conservative briefing of 25th April 1979 so often quoted since inside and outside the House - as "paying the way for a federal constitution linking Ulster to the Irish Republic".

The belief that these are the Government's real intentions is a powerful encouragement to the IRA and the INLA to persevere with their murderous campaigns despite increasing pressure from the security forces of the Crown, whence the grave repercussions in the province which followed the previous meetings.

I am reluctant to believe that, warmly sympathising as you do with the people of Ulster, you will want to incur those consequences yet again; but I should be at fault if I did not reaffirm on this occasion, as respectfully but firmly as I can, the warning which has proved only too well-founded in the past.

Yours ever  
Jim

JAMES MCLYNEAUX



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Tog. with  
Toswell  
H. b.