

with ADR.

WFO

*cc NIO
FIO
CO
Press
MA*



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

31 October 1983

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 22 October.

I do not believe that any meeting between myself and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland can be interpreted in the way you suggest. Good relations between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland are in the interests of all the peoples of both our countries. The pursuit of such relations in no way affects the constitutional status of Northern Ireland as part of the United Kingdom.

I cannot therefore accept that any talks which I might have with Dr. FitzGerald give support for the belief that the United Kingdom Government is seeking to change that status against the wishes of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland. There is no question of that. Nor do I think that the possibility of misunderstanding or misrepresentation should prevent such exchanges at Prime Ministerial or other levels as seem right to the United Kingdom Government. Rather, I would hope that such
/exchanges can

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exchanges can be seen for what they are, as normal dealings between neighbouring states.

As your own letter was released to the press I am arranging for my reply to be similarly published.

Yours

Raymond

—

The Rt. Hon. James H. Molyneux, J.P., M.P.

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street
London SW1

28 October 1983

Dear John

Typ letter

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It has been agreed that I should reply to your letter of 24 October to Peter Ricketts which requested a draft reply to Mr Molyneaux's letter of 22 October to the Prime Minister.

I attach a draft reply which firmly rebuts the charge that the forthcoming Summit will have 'disastrous consequences' in Northern Ireland because it will be interpreted as paving the way for some form of Irish unity.

In anticipation of the Summit the Unionist Parties in the Northern Ireland Assembly have called a debate on Anglo-Irish relations for 2 November. There will be advantage in Mr Molyneaux receiving a reply to his letter before then. We also recommend that the Prime Minister's reply should be published (Mr Molyneaux released the text of his letter to the Press on 24 October); this will help to counter the more extreme conspiracy theories which may be aired in the Assembly debate.

I am sending copies of this letter to Peter Ricketts and Richard Hatfield.

Yours ever

D A Hill

D A HILL

CAM

DRAFT LETTER

FILE NUMBER.....

ADDRESSEE'S REFERENCE.....

To The Rt Hon James H
Molyneaux JP MP
Ulster Unionist Council
Unionist Headquarters
3 Glengall Street
Belfast
BT12 5AE

Enclosures

Copies to be sent to

(Full Postal Address)

(Full Address, if Necessary)

LETTER DRAFTED FOR SIGNATURE BY.....

PRIME MINISTER

(Name of Signatory)

Thank you for your letter of 22 October.

I do not believe that any

~~I note what you say about the interpretation which you see
being attached to a meeting between myself and the Prime
Minister of the Republic of Ireland. I can only say that there
is no justification for any such interpretation. Good relations
between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland are in
the interests of all the peoples of both our countries. The
pursuit of such relations in no way affects the constitutional
status of Northern Ireland as part of the United Kingdom.~~

*can be interpreted
in the way you
suggest.*

I cannot therefore accept that ^{any} talks ^{which} I might have with
Dr FitzGerald give support for the belief that the United Kingdom
Government is seeking to change that status against the wishes
of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland. Nor do I

*There is no question of
that.*

.... / think that



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think that the possibility of misunderstanding or misrepresentation should prevent such exchanges at Prime Ministerial or other levels as seem right to the United Kingdom Government. Rather, I would hope that such exchanges can be seen for what they are, as normal dealings between neighbouring states. ~~Any possibility of adverse "consequences" could arise only from misrepresentation of the motives for and substance of the discussions.~~

As your ^{own} letter was released to the press I am ~~taking steps to publish my reply.~~ *arranging for my reply to be similarly published.*

WJ $\frac{L.F.}{\omega}$