



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS: NORTHERN IRELAND

The Prime Minister has considered your minute of 10 October covering a number of speaking notes for your talks with Mr Nally on 15 and 16 October. We have subsequently had a word about it.

The events of last Thursday night in Brighton have confirmed the Prime Minister in her view that we must go very slow on these talks and must at all costs avoid the impression of being bombed into making concessions to the Republic.

Having said this, the Prime Minister is content for you to continue your exploratory talks with Irish officials today on the basis of the speaking notes enclosed with your minute (though I think it would be wiser not to hand over any of these to the Irish side). The Prime Minister does not, however, wish you at this stage to discuss a possible Communique for the Anglo-Irish Summit with Irish officials. She thinks that the draft enclosed with your minute would cause great unrest among the Unionists. She wishes to reflect further on whether there should be a Communique at all and, if so, what it should say. I should be grateful, therefore, if this item could be dropped altogether from your discussions with Irish officials.

I am sending copies of this minute to Mr. Appleyard (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Mr. Sandiford (Northern Ireland Office), Sir Antony Acland (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Mr. Andrew (Northern Ireland Office) and Mr. Goodall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

C.D. POWELL
15 October 1984