



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

Prime Minister
Agree the line
which DH intends
to take with Mr.

C D Powell Esq
No 10 Downing Street

24 October 1984

Barry Tomenson?

Dear Charles,

(He will ask your
approval for the line he
will take with the Northern Ireland
parties later.)

Yes

CDP 24/10

ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS : NORTHERN IRELAND

Thank you for your letter of 19 October about what should be said to the Northern Ireland political parties about the ground being covered in the confidential exchanges with the Irish Government.

Mr Hurd does not plan to meet the Northern Ireland party leaders for separate discussions on political development until the week beginning 5 November. Since there could well be some further development between now and then which might affect the precise line he should take with the party leaders he will, as requested, circulate a proposed line to take nearer the time. This would allow him to take full account of anything that Mr Barry may say when he meets Mr Hurd on 25 October and of the conclusions of the discussion which the Prime Minister has asked for (as recorded in your minute of 20 October to Sir Robert Armstrong).

When seeing Mr Barry tomorrow Mr Hurd proposes to say that he plans to meet the Northern Ireland party leaders in the near future, and to discuss with them the prospects for political development in Northern Ireland as was envisaged in Mr Prior's speech to the House of Commons on July 2. Some of the matters now being discussed between the two Governments will come naturally in this context, but Mr Hurd will tell Mr Barry that he will be taking scrupulous care not to breach the secrecy which has surrounded the talks between the two governments.

I am copying this letter to Len Appleyard and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours Sincerely
Neil Ward

for G K SANDIFORD