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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 October 1984

Anglo-Irish Relations: Northern Ireland

The Prime Minister has considered the Foreign Secretary's minute of 23 October on this subject. Her general comment is that she is becoming very pessimistic about this exercise and whether it can be taken much further.

On the specific points raised in the minute, the Prime Minister agrees that position papers should be prepared by each side individually and not exchanged. She is less clear on the need for the arrangements proposed in paragraph 6 of the minute and would prefer to discuss these at the meeting already planned for 1 November.

I am copying this letter to Graham Sandiford (Northern Ireland Office) and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

C.D. Powell

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CST