

PRIME MINISTER

Spoken
ED 27/11/84

The reference in the letter to a "round-about suggestion" that you and Mr. Hume might meet comes from a discussion between Michael Alison and Gerry Fitt. The letter described Hume as 'contrite and conciliatory' and wanting a meeting with you.

You have every reason to be fed up with Hume. But a meeting would help cool things with the Republic.

If you decided to pursue the idea, it would certainly be wise to get Douglas Hurd to check with Hume that he is seeking a meeting (there may be some wishful thinking on Fitt's part). But it might be better to move faster than suggested: it would please Garret FitzGerald if a meeting took place before you go to Dublin for the European Council.

Agree?

Meanwhile, I am told that Enoch Powell is delivering a speech this weekend praising you to the skies - which won't help with Dublin!

EDP

C. D. POWELL

23 November, 1984