



From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

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NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
GREAT GEORGE STREET,  
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

A A Carter Esq  
Private Secretary to  
Minister of State  
Civil Service Department  
Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1A 2AZ

26 October 1981

Dear Adrian,

In your letter of 14 September to Willie Rickett you raised the question of whether Northern Ireland bodies should be covered in the White Paper to be published early in 1982. Northern Ireland has always been excluded from the document in the past, and my Secretary of State is of the view that this should continue to be the case.

All the Northern Ireland bodies that might fall to be included in the White Paper are the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland only during what is, constitutionally, a temporary period of direct rule. It remains the Government's hope that at some future date they will revert to being the responsibility of a devolved administration in Northern Ireland. To break with past practice and include them in a White Paper presented by the Minister for the Civil Service might suggest that the Government accepted the permanence of direct rule. That could have serious political consequences in Northern Ireland.

We are not aware of any pressure for the inclusion of Northern Ireland bodies in the White Paper and would therefore prefer the exclusion to continue.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

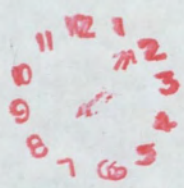
Yours sincerely  
Mike Hopkins

M W HOPKINS

THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY  
UNITED KINGDOM OFFICE  
OF PATRONAGE  
LONDON SW1A 1AA



27 OCT 1981



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