

From THE PRIVATE SECRETARY
CONFIDENTIAL

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NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

Charles Powell Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

Prime Minister
c.d.p. 15/6

15 June 1984

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15/6

Dear Charles

ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS: VISIT BY MR SPRING

John Cole's letter of 11 June recorded that the Prime Minister had decided not to see Mr Spring but that it would be tactful to offer a meeting with Sir Geoffrey Howe or Mr Prior rather than a simple refusal. Sir Geoffrey Howe would have been unable to see Mr Spring on 19 June because he would be out of the country and consequently we offered a meeting with Mr Prior to Mr Spring through the Irish Embassy. Mr Spring has declined that invitation. He is coming to England to see Mr Kinnock (Mr Spring is of course leader of the Irish Labour party) and that meeting will be followed by a press conference. He feels that a meeting with Mr Prior in these circumstances would attract undue publicity and attention and might best be avoided.

I am copying this letter to Mr Ricketts (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Mr Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

Derek

D A HILL

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