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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS: NORTHERN IRELAND

In your minute of 17 October to the Prime Minister you sought her authority to extend the range of consultations on proposals to be discussed with the Irish Government to include the Lord Chancellor, the Attorney General and Sir John Hermon. The Prime Minister agrees to this.

I am sending a copy of this minute to Mr. Appleyard (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and to Mr. Sandiford (Northern Ireland Office).

(C.D. Powell)

18 October, 1984



Prime Minister 32



Agree that the Lord Chancellor, the Attorney-General and Sir John Hermon can be brought into the discussions?

Yes no

Ref. A084/2767

PRIME MINISTER

Anglo-Irish Relations: Northern Ireland (This is not

I am sending you separately a minute reporting the outcome of my meetings earlier this week with Mr Nally and other representatives of the Irish Government. *incompatible with slowing them down:*

2. Though we have extended the circle of those aware of and involved in the discussions to include Mr Brennan and Mr Bourn from the Northern Ireland Office, the Chief Constable of the RUC, Sir John Hermon, has not yet been made a party to what is proposed. We have discussed the proposals for mixed law courts and an all-Ireland law commission with the Lord Chancellor's Department, but they have not yet been discussed either with the Lord Chancellor or the Attorney General. I think that the time has come when Sir John Hermon should be brought into the process and consulted about the elements of the package concerned with joint security arrangements and with practical policing measures; and that the Lord Chancellor and the Attorney General should be consulted about the proposals for mixed law courts and an all-Ireland law commission. I seek your authority to extend the range of consultation accordingly. *indeed it will probably contribute to doing so. CAP 17/x*

3. I am sending copies of this minute to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

RA

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ROBERT ARMSTRONG

17 October 1984