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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Anglo-Irish Relations: Northern Ireland

The Prime Minister has read the account of your latest round of talks with Mr. Nally (your minute A084/2773) of 18 October).

The Prime Minister has commented on three points of detail arising from the talks.

She does not agree with the proposal put forward by the Irish side for a Ministerial Committee for Northern Ireland, the Irish Government representative upon which would in effect be a Minister for Northern Ireland Affairs. As regards the role of a joint Security Commission, she does not think the consultative role of such a Commission should extend to operational guidelines for the security forces and prison services in Northern Ireland. She thinks it unlikely that it will be possible to agree a joint declaration at the next bilateral summit.

The Prime Minister continues to be concerned by the gap between Irish expectations from the summit and what we can offer. She wishes to discuss this further with colleagues before the next round of your talks with Mr. Nally. I shall arrange a meeting shortly.

SECRET AND PERSONAL

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I am sending copies of this minute to Mr. Appleyard (FCO), Mr. Sandiford (Northern Ireland Office), Sir Antony Acland, Mr. Andrew and Mr. Goodall.

CDD
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(C.D. POWELL)

20 October 1984

SECRET AND PERSONAL