



RESTRICTED

B.07221

MR POWELL

Anglo-Irish Agreement: Parliamentary Debate

*attached*

The Northern Ireland Office will provide the four items requested in paragraph 3 of your letter of 19 November to Jim Daniell.

2. Meanwhile, I have looked again with NIO officials at the draft for the Prime Minister's speech, enclosed with your letter, in the light of very recent events. We feel that, since the Unionists seem to be so isolated in Parliament, the tone of the speech need not be critical of them. That causes us to suggest deletions on page 2 and pages 27-28. We also think that the speech should specify the benefits which we see for the unionists in the Agreement and appeal to them to reflect fully on these. In line with this, we suggest expansion of a passage on page 9 of the draft, set out in Annex A to this minute, and a new passage to come before the final paragraph of the speech, set out in Annex B to this minute. We also suggest a number of lesser amendments which, with the deletions mentioned above, are shown in manuscript on the attached copy of your draft. I should explain that the suggested transfer of the material on page 19 to a position after the last full paragraph on page 17 is designed to improve the sequence by separating, as "the first of the benefits", the things that will happen between the two governments from the second benefit, which relates to the two communities.

3. I am sending copies of this minute and the attachments to Jim Daniell (NIO), Len Appleyard (FCO) and Michael Stark.

C L G Mallaby

20 November 1985

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