



10 DOWNING STREET

cc NUO
press office
FCO

ECL

THE PRIME MINISTER

22 November 1985

Dear Mr. Kilfedder,

Thank you for your letter of 16 November, with the text of the Resolution passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly on that day.

I recognise that there is genuine concern among Unionists in Northern Ireland about the Agreement, although I am sure you will understand that I do not accept the interpretation contained in the Resolution.

I am not able for the time being to accept your invitation to address the Assembly. But it would be a great help to me if I were able to meet some of the members of the Assembly and hear their views at first hand. I should therefore like to invite a representative delegation from the Assembly to 10 Downing Street for a talk next week. If you agree, my office will be in touch about a date and time. I do hope that Assembly members will find this suggestion both welcome and of benefit to them.

I am arranging for the text of this letter to be released to the press.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

J.A. Kilfedder, Esq., M.P.

Sam



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Thank you for your letter of 16 November, with the text of the Resolution passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly on that day.

I recognise that there is genuine concern among Unionists in Northern Ireland about the Agreement, ^{and} though you ^{I am} ~~will not expect me to accept the interpretation placed on the~~ ^{sure you will understand that I do not} ~~Agreement in the Resolution.~~ ^{contained in}

I am not able for the time being to accept your invitation to address the Assembly. But ^{it} ~~I am sure it would be a great~~ ^{helpful help to me} ~~be useful~~ if I were able to meet some of the members of the Assembly and hear their views at first hand. I should ^{therefore} like ^{to} ~~to suggest, therefore, that a representative delegation from~~ ^{work} the Assembly ~~should come~~ to 10 Downing Street for a talk next week. If you agree, my office will be in touch about a date and time. ^{I do hope that} ~~My suggestion~~ ^{will} ~~be welcome and I would like to~~ ^{do} ~~them~~

I am arranging for the text of this letter to be released to the press.

J.A. Kilfedder, Esq., M.P.

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NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

Prime Minister

I have recast the letter on the lines you wanted.

Have amended slightly

CONFIDENTIAL

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Agree to sign the letter attached?
November 1985

Agree that it should be delivered tomorrow?

Dear Charles

Please note the passage about how recommends against a message to the Taoiseach.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Thank you for your letter of today's date recording decisions taken at the informal meeting after Cabinet this morning.

C.D.P. 21/11

I attach a draft letter for the Prime Minister to send to Mr Kilfedder. The Secretary of State feels that we should not, at this stage, issue a point by point rebuttal of the Assembly resolution. He would prefer to save the detailed argumentation for next week's debate, while making the point now that the thrust of the Assembly's arguments are not accepted. Thus the draft is considerably shorter than had been envisaged at this morning's meeting.

As for timing of issue of the letter, Mr King, on reflection, thinks it important that the Government should not appear to be acting hastily in the light of yesterday's events. Moreover, he does not think that issuing the letter before Saturday would have any significant impact on the size or mood of the demonstration due to take place that afternoon. His preferred time of delivery would be around 6.00pm on the afternoon of Saturday 23 November; the text would be released to the press at the same time. This would ensure that the letter received good coverage before the debate and might reduce the impact of reporting on the demonstration.

If the Prime Minister is content with the approach outlined above, my office will take responsibility for ensuring that the letter is delivered. Perhaps our Press Offices could liaise over arrangements for releasing the text of the letter.

As for the SDLP, the Secretary of State met Mr Hume this afternoon to discuss a range of matters, including the possibility of his party returning to the Assembly. In the light of Mr Hume's generally positive response, the Secretary of State no longer considers it desirable to raise the matter with the Taoiseach.

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL



I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Lord President of the Council, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Lord Privy Seal, the Home Secretary, the Chief Whip and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Your friend
John Danell*

J A DANIELL

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT LETTER

FILE NUMBER

ADDRESSEE'S REFERENCE

meet some of the members of the Assembly & talk about ~~the~~ hear their views at first hand.

To

Enclosures

Copies to be sent to

J A Kilfedder Esq MP
Speaker of the Northern
Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
BELFAST BT4 3SY

I am not able for the time being to address the Assembly. But I am sure it would be useful if we were able to discuss the proposals with some of its members.

to accept your invitation to the Assembly. But I am sure it would be useful if we were able to discuss the proposals with some of its members.

ASIC
E L3

(Full Postal Address)

(Full Address, if Necessary)

LETTER DRAFTED FOR SIGNATURE BY THE PRIME MINISTER

~~about it~~ ~~Gold~~ (Name of Signatory)

so that we can go into the meetings

Thank you for your letter of 16 November, with the text of the resolution passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly on that day. I cannot accept your interpretation of the Agreement. But nonetheless

I recognise that there is genuine concern among unionists in Northern Ireland about it. ~~to accept the interpretation of it in the Resolution.~~ ~~to accept the interpretation of it in the Resolution.~~

While I am unable to ~~take up your invitation for me to address the Assembly immediately, I shall give it careful consideration.~~ ~~take up your invitation for me to address the Assembly immediately, I shall give it careful consideration.~~ In the meantime, I ~~should like to suggest, with~~ ~~should like to suggest, with~~ suggest that a representative delegation from the

Assembly should come to 10 Downing Street for a talk with me and Tom King. Perhaps you would suggest a time. The debate in the House of Commons next week about the Anglo-Irish Agreement will, of course, provide an opportunity for Unionist Members to express their views about the Agreement. But a meeting at 10 Downing Street would offer an opportunity for a wider group from the Assembly to do the same.

I am arranging for the text of this letter to be released to the press.

c.c. R. J. Andrew, Esq., CB.
N. Wicks, Esq., CBE.

19th November, 1985.

Thank you for your letter of 16th November 1985 with the text of the resolution passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly on Saturday 16th November 1985. Your letter has been laid before The Queen and in accordance with constitutional practice it has been referred to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

SIR PHILIP MOORE

James Kilfedder, Esq., MP.

James KILFEDDER MP

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10 DOWNING STREET

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From the Private Secretary

18 November, 1985.

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Mr. James Kilfedder, M.P., which passes on a resolution of the Northern Ireland Assembly. As you will see, it includes an invitation to the Prime Minister to address the Assembly. I should be grateful for a draft reply.

(C.D. Powell)

J.A. Daniell, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.

JA



NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY,
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
STORMONT,
BELFAST BT4 3SY

FROM THE SPEAKER

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher FRS MP
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

16 November 1985

Dear Prime Minister *AB*

The following resolution was passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly at its sitting on Saturday 16 November 1985:-

"That this Assembly, recalling both the solemn pledge of Her Majesty's Government contained in the Downing Street Declaration of August 1969 that "the responsibility for the affairs of Northern Ireland is entirely a matter of domestic jurisdiction [and] the United Kingdom Government will take full responsibility for asserting this principle in all international relationships", and the Prime Minister's declaration in the House of Commons on the 22nd of May 1980 that "any change in the constitutional status of Northern Ireland is a matter for the people of Northern Ireland, this Government and this House", repudiates the Anglo-Irish Agreement of the 15th of November 1985 as a flagrant breach of the above-mentioned solemn undertakings; deprecates as an intolerable derogation of British sovereignty incompatible with the security of Northern Ireland's constitutional position, the involvement of the Ministers and civil servants of a foreign government in the structure and processes of internal administration and policy formation of this part of the United Kingdom; notes that, while Her Majesty's Government in the Chequers Communique of November 1984 committed itself to securing the acceptance of both communities in Northern Ireland to the structures and processes of the province, the unique arrangements now intended for Northern Ireland have been entered into without consultation with its people or their representatives, and demands that Her Majesty's Government seek forthwith the consent of the electorate of Northern Ireland to the measures now proposed; and accordingly instructs Mr Speaker to convey the contents of this resolution to Her Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and furthermore, to invite the Prime Minister as a matter of urgency to address the Assembly on this vital subject."

Accordingly I invite you to address the Assembly.

Yours sincerely
Jim Kilfedder

JAMES KILFEDDER MP

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R. W. Paynell



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

*With the Compliments of
Sir Philip Moore*



NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY,
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
STORMONT,
BELFAST BT4 3SY

FROM THE SPEAKER

The Private Secretary
to Her Majesty The Queen
Buckingham Palace
LONDON SW1

16 November 1985

Dear Sir

I should be grateful if Her Majesty's attention might be directed to the following resolution which was passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly at its sitting on Saturday 16 November 1985:-

"That this Assembly, recalling both the solemn pledge of Her Majesty's Government contained in the Downing Street Declaration of August 1969 that "the responsibility for the affairs of Northern Ireland is entirely a matter of domestic jurisdiction [and] the United Kingdom Government will take full responsibility for asserting this principle in all international relationships", and the Prime Minister's declaration in the House of Commons on the 22nd of May 1980 that "any change in the constitutional status of Northern Ireland is a matter for the people of Northern Ireland, this Government and this House", repudiates the Anglo-Irish Agreement of the 15th of November 1985 as a flagrant breach of the above-mentioned solemn undertakings; deprecates as an intolerable derogation of British sovereignty incompatible with the security of Northern Ireland's constitutional position, the involvement of the Ministers and civil servants of a foreign government in the structure and processes of internal administration and policy formation of this part of the United Kingdom; notes that, while Her Majesty's Government in the Chequers Communique of November 1984 committed itself to securing the acceptance of both communities in Northern Ireland to the structures and processes of the province, the unique arrangements now intended for Northern Ireland have been entered into without consultation with its people or their representatives, and demands that Her Majesty's Government seek forthwith the consent of the electorate of Northern Ireland to the measures now proposed; and accordingly instructs Mr Speaker to convey the contents of this resolution to Her Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and furthermore, to invite the Prime Minister as a matter of urgency to address the Assembly on this vital subject."

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Kilfedder".

JAMES KILFEDDER MP



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NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY,
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
STORMONT,
BELFAST BT4 3SY

22/11

FROM THE SPEAKER

22 November 1985

Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister.

*CDP
26/11*

Dear Prime Minister

I wish to thank you for your letter, which I placed before the Business Committee of the Northern Ireland Assembly today.

The Assembly has expressed its opinion on the Anglo-Eire Agreement in the Resolution, which I forwarded to you. The Alliance Party tabled an Amendment and voted against the Resolution.

The deputation - which will consist of members of the three Parties attending the Assembly - will discuss with you the terms of that Resolution.

I have been asked to make it clear to you that in no way can the Assembly deputation enter into any negotiation with you as they have no authority from the Assembly.

*Yours Sincerely
Jim Kilfedder*

James Kilfedder, M.P.

The Speaker.

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER 1985

The Assembly will meet at 10.30 am.

Prayers.

BUSINESS

Mr Molyneaux, Dr Paisley, Mr McCusker, Mr Robinson, Mr Millar, Mr Foster

Anglo-Irish Agreement 1985. That this Assembly, recalling both the solemn pledge of Her Majesty's Government contained in the Downing Street Declaration of August 1969 that "the responsibility for the affairs of Northern Ireland is entirely a matter of domestic jurisdiction [and] the United Kingdom Government will take full responsibility for asserting this principle in all international relationships", and the Prime Minister's declaration in the House of Commons on the 22nd of May 1980 that "any change in the constitutional status of Northern Ireland is a matter for the people of Northern Ireland, this Government and this House", repudiates the Anglo-Irish Agreement of the 15th of November 1985 as a flagrant breach of the above-mentioned solemn undertakings; deprecates as an intolerable derogation of British sovereignty incompatible with the security of Northern Ireland's constitutional position, the involvement of the Ministers and civil servants of a foreign government in the structure and processes of internal administration and policy formation of this part of the United Kingdom; notes that, while Her Majesty's Government in the Chequers Communique of November 1984 committed itself to securing the acceptance of both communities in Northern Ireland to the structures and processes of the province, the unique arrangements now intended for Northern Ireland have been entered into without consultation with its people or their representatives, and demands that Her Majesty's Government seek forthwith the consent of the electorate of Northern Ireland to the measures now proposed; and accordingly instructs Mr Speaker to convey the contents of this resolution to Her Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and furthermore, to invite the Prime Minister as a matter of urgency to address the Assembly on this vital subject.

AMENDMENT

To be moved by **Mr Cushnahan, Mr Morrow, Mr Mawhinney, Mr Close, Mr Cook, Lord Dunleath, Mr Glendinning, Mr Maguire, Sir Oliver Napier, Mr Neeson**

To leave out from "Assembly" in line 1, to the end, and add -

"criticise both the total veil of secrecy which surrounded the Anglo-Irish talks, and the inordinate length of time it took to complete them, as being factors which greatly exacerbated tensions within the Northern Ireland community; believes that the document signed by the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland on 15 November 1985 is a lengthy and complex statement which merits detailed and serious study by all democratic political parties throughout the British Isles; further believes that the proposals contained therein, along with the

Catherwood proposals for devolved government in Northern Ireland (and indeed other proposals for devolution and sensible Anglo-Irish relations) should form the basis for discussion between political parties in Northern Ireland, and between those parties and the Secretary of State to assess how best political progress can be made in a way which recognises the legitimate rights and aspirations of both the unionist and nationalist traditions within the community."



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

22 November 1985

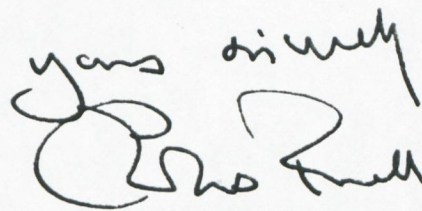
Dear Jim,

PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO MR. KILFEDDER

The Clerk of the Ulster Assembly rang me this afternoon to say that the Assembly had decided to accept the Prime Minister's invitation to send a delegation to see her. The delegation would consist of three representatives from the Democratic Unionist Party, three from the Ulster Unionist Party and two from the Alliance. It would be led by Mr. Kilfedder himself. The delegation would very much prefer to see the Prime Minister before next Tuesday's debate in the House of Commons.

After consulting the Prime Minister, I rang back to offer the time of 3.15 on the afternoon of Monday, 25 November. This was accepted by Mr Kilfedder to whom I subsequently spoke several times in the course of the afternoon. The upshot of it was that the delegation would consist of Frank Millar (General Secretary) and Jack Allen (Chief Whip) of the Ulster Unionist Party; Peter Robinson (Deputy Leader) and Tim Allister (Chief Whip) of the Democratic Unionist Party; two unidentified members of the Alliance Party, and Mr Kilfedder. Mr Kilfedder himself will be there in an entirely neutral role. They will be sending an official reply to the Prime Minister's letter which will say that the delegation's task will be to discuss with the Prime Minister the terms of the Assembly's Resolution and that it will not be authorised to enter into negotiations. I made clear in reply that we had no intention of negotiating. Mr Kilfedder said rather apologetically that Mr Paisley had insisted on this last point.

I am copying this letter to Colin Budd (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Mr Mallaby (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely

C D POWELL

Jim Daniell, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office