

Subject

a master



bc PC

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

28 November 1985

Dear Jim,

ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT

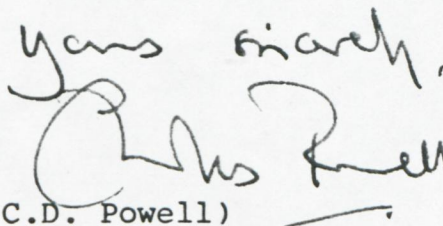
The Prime Minister had a brief discussion with the Lord President and the Northern Ireland Secretary after Cabinet this morning about possible steps to influence majority opinion in Northern Ireland towards a more favourable, or at least less unfavourable, view of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Your Secretary of State said that he was considering a major publicity campaign involving the placing of advertisements and other activities. He needed to get together a skilled team for this campaign, drawing fully on Whitehall resources and perhaps also going beyond.

In discussion it was suggested that the Prime Minister might invite groups of leading Northern Ireland citizens for a talk and lunch at 10 Downing Street. Particular groups mentioned were church leaders, civil servants and editors, as well as leading figures in the industrial and commercial life of Northern Ireland. Mention was also made of the President of the Ulster Farmers Union. It would be better to mix people from these various groups rather than invite them by category. I should be grateful if you could let me have some specific proposals for, say, two or three groups as soon as possible. I will then try to find space in the Prime Minister's diary when she could see them. We should aim to arrange for such groups to meet other leading members of the Government and of Parliament while in London.

The Prime Minister also stressed the importance of working out a number of key phrases about the Agreement and its consequences which Ministers should repeat over and over again. An example was: "We want Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom". You will wish to collect a number of such phrases which will appeal to the majority and circulate them widely amongst Ministers.

I am copying this letter to Joan MacNaughton (Lord President's Office), Len Appleyard (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely,

 (C.D. Powell)

Jim Daniell, Esq.,
 Northern Ireland Office