



**ANGLICAN  
CONSULTATIVE  
COUNCIL**

Anglican Consultative Council  
14 Great Peter Street  
London SW1P 3NQ

Telephone: 01-222 2851  
Telex: 8950907 ANGCOM G  
Cables: Compasrose London SW1

President  
Archbishop of Canterbury

Chairman  
The Ven. Yong Ping Chung

Secretary General  
The Rev. Canon Samuel Van Culin

30 November 1985

Robin Catford, Esq  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

*Mr Powell*

*For you to deal with, please.  
I have not acknowledged.*

*alc  
2/12*

Dear Mr Catford

I am informed by Mr Grenville-Grey that he made contact with you on behalf of the Archbishop of Canterbury to express the desire of the House of Bishops of the Church of Ireland for a meeting with the Prime Minister.

Mr Grenville-Grey has passed to me your suggestion that the House of Bishops should first contact the Minister for Northern Ireland, and seek his endorsement for such a meeting. I shall convey this advice to the Bishop of Clogher who is the Secretary of the Church of Ireland House of Bishops.

The matter which the bishops desire to discuss with the Prime Minister is related to the Anglo-Irish agreement. The Church of Ireland, as you know, covers both The Republic and Ulster. Within the Protestant community in Northern Ireland, the bishops are amongst the most moderate of spokes-persons and their contributions to the working out of the agreement will be important.

For your information I am enclosing a copy of the Bishops Statement issued following the announcement of the agreement.

Please accept my personal appreciation for your continued consideration of this request and for your advice.

Yours sincerely

The Revd Canon Samuel Van Culin  
Secretary General

cc The Most Revd and Rt Hon  
the Archbishop of Canterbury

enc

STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE CHURCH OF IRELAND HOUSE OF BISHOPS ON 20 NOVEMBER 1985

The House of Bishops of the Church of Ireland shares with all people of goodwill in this island, North and South, the desire to see peace and mutual understanding develop and strengthen.

We acknowledge that the purpose of those involved in the formulation of the Anglo-Irish Agreement is an attempt to deal with long-standing political and community divisions but we also recognize the anxieties and deep frustrations that many people feel concerning the eventual out-working of the Agreement and its potential repercussions.

We are acutely aware that many people feel that major decisions involving their vital interests have been made in secret without full and open consultation with those most directly affected. Such a process inevitably creates resentment and deepens division and mistrust. We would strongly urge the Political Leaders involved in the Agreement to take very seriously the sense of insecurity and lack of trust that arises for future relationships and structures.

In the coming weeks and months the Anglo-Irish Agreement will be the subject of searching scrutiny and earnest debate in many places and at many levels. This necessary debate should be carried out in a manner that refrains from inflammatory words or actions. Such words or actions can only have the effect of increasing bitterness, division and suffering in a land where during the past 16 years we have at a pastoral level ministered to so many people in their pain and grief.

As part of our pastoral responsibility as bishops of the Church of Ireland we intend to seek early meetings with the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Taoiseach of the Republic of Ireland, to express our views on the Agreement.

We pray, and ask others to join with us in praying, that all may have a sound judgement in this matter and contribute to a more peaceful, co-operative and stable relationship between all people of goodwill in this island.

+ + + + +