



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

19 February 1986

Dear Mr. Cushnahan,

Thank you for your letter of 6 February.

You suggest that I should take the initiative in seeking dialogue with the Northern Ireland political parties. As you will probably know by now, I have recently written to Jim Molyneaux, Ian Paisley, Jim Kilfedder and John Hume asking them to meet me. I should also welcome a further meeting with you. I will ask my Office to seek to arrange a date. At that meeting we might explore further your ideas for some formal mechanism for the Government to use in consulting the Northern Ireland constitutional parties.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

John Cushnahan, Esq.

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

ccpc



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

Charles D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

17th February 1986

Dear Charles,

Thank you for your letter of 11 February covering one from John Cushnahan.

anacme at GR folder

In her letters of 4 February to the Unionist leaders, the Prime Minister indicated that she planned to suggest meetings also to John Hume and John Cushnahan. We have already advised that she should invite Mr Hume to a meeting in response to his letter of 5 February. Mr Cushnahan's letter affords a similar opportunity to issue an invitation. As with Mr Hume, we see no reason to enter any discussion of the points raised in Mr Cushnahan's letter before the actual meeting.

..... I attach a draft reply.

Yours sincerely

Neil Wood

N D WARD

ssd

ADDRESSEE'S REFERENCE

To	Enclosures	Copies to be sent to
<p>John Cushnahan Esq Alliance Party of Northern Ireland 88 University Street BELFAST BT7 1HE</p> <p>(Full Postal Address)</p>	<p>SLHAJS</p>	<p>cc:-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland</p> <p>(Full Address, if Necessary)</p>

LETTER DRAFTED FOR SIGNATURE BY PRIME MINISTER
(Name of Signatory)

Thank you for your letter of 6 February.

You suggest that I should take the initiative in seeking dialogue with the Northern Ireland political parties. As you will probably know by now, I have in fact ^{recently} written to Jim Molyneaux, Ian Paisley ~~and~~ ^{and John Hume} Jim Kilfedder, asking them to meet me. I should also welcome a further meeting with you. I will ask my Office to seek to arrange a date. At that meeting we might explore further your ideas for some formal mechanism for the Government to use in consulting the Northern Ireland constitutional parties.

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