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6.2 CCPC BU

Ref. A086/636

PRIME MINISTER

I have been considering with Sir Robert Andrew and Mr Goodall alternative formulae which you could use at your meeting with Mr Molyneaux and Mr Paisley tomorrow, if you need to say anything that contains a hint of willingness to look again at aspects of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

2. As you know, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary hopes that you will be able to avoid any such reference at all.

Officials agree that it would be preferable to avoid any such reference, but recognise that you may need to say something.

3. The something would need not to carry any implications of willingness to abandon or derogate from any aspects of the Agreement.

4. We think that it would be better that any formula should not refer explicitly to the Agreement itself but only to the Intergovernmental Conference.

--- 5. I attach three possible formulae, in ascending order of noxiousness.

6. The first is, we think, innocuous: it is a statement of what is already provided for in the Agreement.

7. The second goes a little further, but would not (we think) create unmanageable repercussions.

8. The third is related specifically to Article 11 of the Agreement. We think that this goes too far. The Irish Government would be very dismayed if they thought that we were



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already prepared to think in terms of invoking the review clause in the Agreement. The unionists could certainly be trusted to make the most of this in propaganda terms.

9. Thus, if it is felt that the first formula does not go far enough, officials would recommend the second as being as far as you should go.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

24 February 1986



Alternative formulae

1. If these studies resulted in constructive proposals, there would obviously be, as indeed the Agreement recognises, implications for the range of subjects discussed in the Conference.
2. What I can say is that, if after discussion with all concerned the ideas raised in our talk today bore fruit, we should need to consider what that meant for the work of the Intergovernmental Conference [~~set up under the Anglo-Irish Agreement~~].
3. In the event of the studies (working parties) producing constructive proposals which seem likely to have implications for the scope and nature of the activities of the Conference, the Government will consider seeking a review under Article 11 of the Agreement.

Original

What I can say is that, if after discussion with all concerned, the ideas raised in our talk today bore fruit, it would be necessary to consider how that affected the operation of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.



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What I can say is that, if after discussion with all concerned the ideas raised in our talk today bore fruit, we should need to consider what that meant for the work of the intergovernmental Conference.

In the event of the studies (working parties) producing constructive proposals which seem likely to have implications for the scope and nature of the activities of the Conference, the Government will consider seeking a review under Article 11 of the Agreement.

● If these studies (suggestions) result in constructive proposals it would be necessary to consider whether and, if so, in what respects they would have implications for the scope and nature of the activities of the Conference.



If these studies (suggestions) result in constructive proposals we would have to consider any implications for the working of the Conference.

If these studies (suggestions) produce a successful outcome we would review the effect of this on the working of the Conference.



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