

ate

PRIME MINISTER

cc Mr. Flesher

NORTHERN IRELAND

The Northern Ireland Secretary will provide a full assessment of today's events in the morning. In the meantime I attach a suggested line for Questions.— DRAFT ONLY

CHARLES POWELL

3 March 1986



DRAFT

NORTHERN IRELAND

"My rt. hon. friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland will be making a statement later.

But I have to say that yesterday was a sad day for Northern Ireland: a day scarred by violence, intimidation and fear. Those responsible have no claim to the title of loyalist. Their activities were directed against the law, against Parliament and against the people of Northern Ireland themselves. This Government and this House will not be intimidated by the tactics of the bully boy. I hope that the great majority of decent law-abiding people in Northern Ireland will reflect on the lessons of yesterday, and the consequences of the road on which some of their leaders have embarked."

EL3AXJ