PRIME MINISTER

NORTHERN IRELAND

Jim Molyneaux has suggested to the Chief Whip that a meeting might be convened involving you, himself, Enoch Powell, Tom King and the Chief Whip. The meeting would be on Privy Counsellor terms and the purpose would be to have a general discussion. The Chief Whip's advice is that we should approach this cautiously. It would be a bit of a soft option for Jim Molyneaux who gets a meeting with you on privileged terms but remains at liberty to go on being uncooperative in public. The Chief Whip's advice is that he and Tom King should have a preliminary session to try to establish what the outcome of such a meeting might be. This seems sensible. But you may like to discuss it when the House reassembles.

CDP

CHARLES POWELL 27 March 1986

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