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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

7 April 1986

NORTHERN IRELAND

The Prime Minister had a discussion of recent developments with the Northern Ireland Secretary this evening.

Mr. King reported that the Chief Constable of the RUC was in a robust and positive frame of mind. He had agreed that the army should take over some RUC duties in West Belfast, so that the RUC could increase their efforts against intimidation of their own members. They would also be stepping up CID work on this front. The Chief Constable had made clear that he was not asking for additional troops.

The Prime Minister and Mr. King agreed on the importance of continuing the Government's efforts to engage Unionist leaders in talks. A number of feelers had been put out on the Unionist side. Tensions between the UUP and DUP were increasing and might lead to a split.

(C. D. POWELL)

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