

010
RESTRICTED



SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND

cc B
NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

The Rt Hon Kenneth Baker MP
Secretary of State for Education and Science
Elizabeth House
York Road
London SE1

13 May 1987

Ken

N B M

NORTHERN IRELAND: TEACHERS DISPUTE

As our proposals for the pay and conditions of service of teachers in England and Wales were moving forward, Brian Mawhinney was encouraging employers and teachers' unions in Northern Ireland to make a further attempt to reach an agreed settlement. In particular Brian was aware that the locally-based teachers unions were worried about the effect which the loss of their negotiating rights would have on their continued existence. He was successful in bringing employers and teachers' unions together for discussions which lasted 3 days at the end of which a draft agreement was produced which is in accordance with Government policy. The Northern Ireland teachers' unions have agreed to put this to a ballot of their members. The result will not be known until 18 May but early public comments from the teachers' unions have been encouraging and I am hopeful that the teachers' dispute in Northern Ireland will soon be settled. If so, I believe that a negotiated settlement of the teachers' dispute in Northern Ireland will further demonstrate the reasonableness of our approach throughout the UK.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and other members of MISC 122.

2 ~
TK

RESTRICTED