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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ANGLO/IRISH SUMMIT: JOINT STUDIES REVIEW

The Prime Minister has seen your minute of 28 October and its attachments.

She is content with the proposals in paragraphs 6 and 7 of your minute, subject to the following comments on the review annexed to the draft joint report of the Steering Committee of the AIIC.

In sections 1.3 and 1.4 the Encounter organisation is presented, in effect, as a precursor to an Advisory Committee, the latter to be "associated with the AIIC". But the scope proposed for the independent development of Encounter, with emphasis on independence of Government control, fits rather uneasily into (apparently) the more "official" status of the Advisory Committee.

In sections 3.19 and 3.20, the Prime Minister feels that the last paragraph could cause difficulty. The border areas are the most sensitive in security terms and many isolated farmsteads have been the targets for PIRA and INLA cross-border terrorist attacks - with a number of Protestant farmers in Northern Ireland being driven to evacuate border farm lands. A lot of local controversy on the Northern Ireland side is directed at the issue of the closure of cross-border roads for the setting up of road blocks, regularity of patrols, etc. The paragraph referred to might provoke both derision and anger if read out in the Northern Ireland Assembly. The new tourist maps might be seen, however unjustifiable, as an aid to terrorism. In section 4.4, the Prime Minister has observed that secondary education in Northern Ireland is a touchy topic. The sectarian divide in schooling is regarded as the root cause of the persistence of much of the present troubles. The section in question seems to portray very much a one-way traffic in exchanges, i.e. from South to North and could be seen by some as almost a subversive flow.

The Prime Minister would be grateful if you could take into account the above comments in further drafting.

I am copying this minute to Brian Fall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), John Lyon (Northern Ireland Office) and Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence).

A. J. Cole.

1 November 1983

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