

PRIME MINISTER

## MEETING WITH THE NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY

The Northern Ireland Secretary is coming for a meeting tomorrow. I am told that he has nothing particular to raise. He may want to say a word or two about the recent meeting of the Inter-Governmental Conference (you saw the report: it is in the folder).

You told the Chiefs of Staff that you would like a meeting at some stage about cross-border security cooperation involving them and the RUC. We will look for a date in the diary.

You should be aware that the Northern Ireland Secretary is still in dispute with the Defence Secretary over the fate of the two additional battalions in Northern Ireland. Mr. Younger wants to withdraw one shortly after Christmas and the other at the end of 1987. I have let Mr. King's office know that your sympathies lie with the Ministry of Defence on this issue.

You will want to ask Mr. King whether he sees any openings at all for engaging the Unionists in dialogue once Parliament resumes.

There is now a lot more publicity about the Stalker case. The Observer ran a story that the RUC had pursued a shoot to kill policy some years ago.

You might like to consult the Northern Ireland Secretary on whether you should do a radio interview for Northern Ireland once the anniversary of the Anglo-Irish Agreement is past.

You should be aware that there are a couple of crucial votes in the Dail in the next few days on either of which Dr. FitzGerald's government could fall.

C.D.P.

CHARLES POWELL

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