

PRIME MINISTER

BILATERAL WITH THE NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY

You have a bilateral with the Northern Ireland Secretary tomorrow.

The main point which he wishes to raise is the background to John Hume's contacts with Sinn Fein. He is anxious that you should not condemn these in the House so forcefully as to make it impossible for John Hume to continue with them. You think John Hume is being led up the garden path.

Other points which ought to be covered are:

- (i) Stalker/Sampson. You will want to establish when Mr. King is going to make his statement and what he will say. The Attorney-General's statement was very satisfactory. We await the Appeal Court's judgment on the Birmingham bombing trial.
- (ii) Contacts with the Unionists. He will want to bring you up to date with his contacts with the Unionists. They seem to be in the doldrums. Now might be psychologically a good moment for a move forward, in the wake of the Stalker-Sampson inquiry outcome.
- (iii) Redeployment of the Army. This has attracted very little comment and no public statement from the Irish government. But there is little change on the ground yet.
- (iv) Extradition. You will find a minute elsewhere in your box which shows that the new extradition arrangements are not working satisfactorily. The Attorney and the Northern Ireland Secretary now suggest that we agree to let the Irish Attorney have a 'statement of facts' in extradition cases, on condition that they agree that this will suffice (and they cannot ask to see the evidence).

CDP
C. D. POWELL

26 January 1988