

NC3 AAB



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS

The Prime Minister read during the Christmas/New Year period your minute of 18 December reporting on the latest meeting of the Armstrong/Nally Group.

The Prime Minister has commented that your minute shows that the Irish want more than we can give and always will. She doubts whether we shall find a way forward.

The Prime Minister agrees that there should be a Meeting of Ministers in the middle of January to discuss the next steps. She would find it helpful to have before then an account of any further contacts which the Northern Ireland Secretary has had with the Northern Ireland political parties.

I am copying this minute to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

C. D. POWELL

2 January 1985

TJG