

file

Bre

15



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Anglo-Irish Relations: Northern Ireland

Thank you for your minute of 4 February.

The Prime Minister agrees that issues of cross-border economic co-operation could be included in the remit of the proposed new Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council body. But she thinks that also to include allegations of economic discrimination in Northern Ireland will lead to endless argument with no result.

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
5 February 1985



Prime Minister
Agree to X or Y?
CDD 14
4/2

Ref. A085/369

MR POWELL

a) cross-border only
b) will lead to endless argument & no result

Anglo-Irish Relations: Northern Ireland

Thank you for your minute of 28 January.

2. A response to the first sentence of your third paragraph will be included in a report from the Northern Ireland Office on their Secretary of State's latest round of talks with the political parties; this should reach you by the end of the week.

3. On the fourth paragraph, I have had further consultations with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Northern Ireland Office. It is agreed that we should not include questions of economic development in Northern Ireland within the remit of the proposed new Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council (AIIC) body. But we think that there would be no harm and some advantage in agreeing to include in the remit of that body:

a. issues of cross-border economic co-operation of the kind which are currently discussed in the existing AIIC machinery;

b. allegations of economic discrimination in Northern Ireland, for example in relation to employment.

The second of these would be a specific instance of the body's concern with "measures ... to prevent discrimination" (British proposal of 21 January 1985, paragraph 10), and would be consistent with our agreement to take their views into account in considering appointments to the Fair Employment Agency (ibid, paragraph 12).

[This refers to "partial power-sharing" you were surprised to read of it]

[You opposed bringing economic development in Northern Ireland into the arrangements]

X
Y



4. It has been agreed that the next Armstrong-Nally encounter should take place in London on Friday 8 February.

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

R

Approved by
ROBERT ARMSTRONG
and signed in his absence

CONQUEROR

4 February 1985