



PM/85/44

PRIME MINISTERAnglo/Irish Relations: Northern Ireland

1. I have seen Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 7[✓] May reporting the meeting which he had with Mr Nally at the end of April. I think the arguments which he puts forward for proposing a revision of paragraph 2 of the text which he handed over on 29 April are cogent. I can accept the revised text which he proposes without further ado. In substance there is no real difference between this new text, the text of 29 April or the text originally put to the Irish in January. It is a matter of presentation: but for the Irish Government the presentation is of critical importance. There are still important differences of substance between the Irish position and ours and it remains to be seen whether these will prove negotiable. But I am sure that it would be wrong to allow the process to founder over the wording of paragraph 2, when the Irish are in effect seeking to adhere to wording which we ourselves put on the table at an earlier stage. I therefore consider that Sir Robert should be authorised to put his revised text to the Irish, with discretion to fall back if necessary on the full 21 January text (which we know that Irish Ministers have already accepted).

2. I suggest that the important thing is to ensure that we are still in business by dealing with paragraph 2 now. We can address the other questions raised by Sir Robert Armstrong in slightly slower time, when he has explored them further with the Irish. At that stage it would, I think, be appropriate to review the position again in OD(I), as Sir Robert Armstrong suggests.



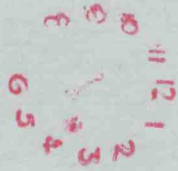
3. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'G. Howe', written in a cursive style.

GEOFFREY HOWE

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
9 May, 1985

MEZANO
Situation
PC-20



19 MAY 1985

FROM:

THE RT. HON. LORD HAILSHAM OF ST. MARYLEBONE, C.H., F.R.S., D.C.L.

11



HOUSE OF LORDS.

LONDON SW1A 0PW

Copy No. 1 of 11

SECRET AND PERSONAL

9 May 85

Prime Minister

ANGLO/IRISH AGREEMENT: JOINT COURTS

I have seen Douglas Hurd's minute to you of 2nd May 1985 and your Private Secretary's letter to Douglas Hurd's of 7th May 1985.

I think in this context I should report to you that Lord Lowry came to see me the other day in order to oppose vigorously the very notion that we should even discuss the matter. He repeated many of the views recorded by Douglas but added that he thought that Northern Ireland judges would actually refuse to participate and probably could not be made to do so at least South of the Border.

I might add that what struck me more than anything was the real anger felt by Lord Lowry about possible initiatives toward joint courts.

I am copying this to other members of OD(I) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

H: of S: M.

9th May, 1985

SECRET AND PERSONAL