

Prime Minister 15

Open "determined efforts"  
Don't think "every possible effort"

Ref. A085/1321

MR POWELL

Agree to  
RTA's revised  
suggestion?

in any better than  
every effort. I'm sure of the  
new text unless we could fall back

CDP 13/5

to every effort if

Anglo-Irish Relations: Northern Ireland

they would accept 'determined' not  
Thank you for your minute of 13 May.

2. On the first point, I understand the difficulty about the phrase "every effort". I suggest that we might use "determined efforts": for some reason that seems slightly more appropriate to a text of this kind than "strenuous efforts".

3. I wonder, however, whether the Prime Minister would give me discretion to fall back on "every possible effort". This would have the advantage of being slightly nearer to the text in our paper of 21 January (which included the phrase "every effort"), while preserving the thought that we should not be prevailed upon against our own better judgment.

4. On the second point, I will of course try to persuade Irish officials to accept the text now proposed. But it was the phrase "the British Government would retain full responsibility for decisions" which most stuck in their throat last time: they felt that it "rubbed their noses" in it. I take it from the penultimate paragraph of your minute that I have discretion in the last resort to drop the phrase.

5. But I should like to suggest one other possible alternative to the Prime Minister. That is to move the whole of the sentence in question to the end of the paragraph, so that it follows the references to action in both parts of Ireland, and to make it even-handed between the two Governments, so that the sentence would read: "There would be no derogation of sovereignty on the part of either the United Kingdom Government or the Irish Government, and each would retain responsibility for the administration of government within its own jurisdiction." I believe that I have a reasonable chance of persuading the Irish to accept such a phrase so placed.

[Equally we could underline it in red 1 for the Unionists] CDP



6. I attach a revised version of paragraph 2, so that the Prime Minister can see what it would look like as a whole, if amended in accordance with the last suggestion.

7. 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.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

13 May 1985

CONFIDENTIAL

(13 May)

Revision of Paragraph 2 of the British Text of 29 April

2. Unlike the existing AIIC machinery this Committee would be primarily concerned with North/South rather than East/West relationships and would meet on a regular rather than ad hoc basis. The British Government would accept that the Irish Government would put forward views and proposals on matters relating to Northern Ireland within the body's remit. Attention would thus be given to these matters at the highest level. In the interest of promoting peace and stability, determined efforts [every possible effort] would be made through the Standing Committee to resolve any differences. The focus of the Committee 's work would be mainly in Northern Ireland; but some of the matters under consideration would involve co-operative action in both parts of the island of Ireland and possibly also in Great Britain. Some of the proposals considered in respect of Northern Ireland might also be found to have application by the Irish authorities in the Republic. There would be no derogation of sovereignty on the part of either the United Kingdom Government or the Irish Government, and each would retain responsibility for the administration of government within its own jurisdiction.

THE CHAIRMAN



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