

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

29 May 1986

From the Private Secretary

THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

The Prime Minister has considered the Northern Ireland Secretary's undated minute about the future of the Northern Ireland Assembly. She found the statement that "presentation of a decision to dissolve would be most important" rather ironic given the extensive leaking of the likelihood of such a decision which seems already to have taken place.

The Prime Minister thinks that an early meeting is required to consider this point as well as the handling of the draft Northern Ireland Act 1974 (Interim Period Extension) Order 1986. We shall be in touch to propose a time.

I am copying this letter to Joan MacNaughton (Lord President's Office), Tony Galsworthy (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Stephen Boys Smith (Home Office), David Morris (Lord Privy Seal's Office), John Howe (Ministry of Defence), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office) and to Michael Stark (Cabinet Office).

(CHARLES POWELL)

Jim A. Daniell, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.

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JANASZ.
cc B/JP
cc Sir PC Cadogan