



PRIME MINISTER

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

As I am unable to be present at the OD meeting on Monday, I thought it might be helpful if I were to set out my views to you.

2. I believe the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland is right to propose the dissolution of the present Northern Ireland Assembly because it is behaving in a totally irresponsible manner. But I am equally sure that he should make clear that the dissolution is not intended to be permanent. In principle, the idea of having an Assembly elected in due course is sensible. I hope the Secretary of State will be able to make sure that John Hume is pressed to ensure that the SDLP will join any new Assembly. In the interim, I suggest it might be of value to consider having some form of Advisory Council, appointed by the Secretary of State, and numbering the main party leaders - if they agree - among its members. The Council could scrutinise legislation affecting Northern Ireland as the Assembly was supposed to be doing.

3. I do of course accept that this alternative proposal may not be found to be acceptable in the current circumstances. Whatever its feasibility, however, it should be made perfectly clear that the operation of the Anglo/Irish Agreement is not to be affected by dissolution of the Assembly.

4. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to the other members of OD Committee and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Privy Council Office
6 June 1986

Prime Minister
I asked the
Lord President to
file this, as he
cannot be present at OD

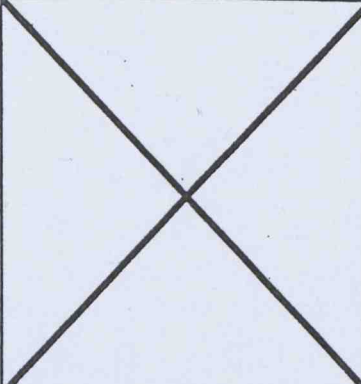
CAP
6/6

works



COOPERATIVE

A The National Archives

| | |
|--|--|
| DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i> PIECE/ITEM <i>1814</i> (one piece/item number) | Date and sign |
| Extract details: <i>Minute to PM dated 5 June 1986</i> |  |
| CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION | |
| RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958 | <i>2/2/2017</i> <i>S. Gray</i> |
| TEMPORARILY RETAINED | |
| MISSING AT TRANSFER | |
| NUMBER NOT USED | |
| MISSING (TNA USE ONLY) | |
| DOCUMENT PUT IN PLACE (TNA USE ONLY) | |

Instructions for completion of Dummy Card

Use black or blue pen to complete form.

Use the card for one piece or for each extract removed from a different place within a piece.

Enter the department and series,
eg. HO 405, J 82.

Enter the piece and item references, .
eg. 28, 1079, 84/1, 107/3

Enter extract details if it is an extract rather than a whole piece.
This should be an indication of what the extract is,
eg. Folio 28, Indictment 840079, E107, Letter dated 22/11/1995.
Do not enter details of why the extract is sensitive.

If closed under the FOI Act, enter the FOI exemption numbers applying to the closure, eg. 27(1), 40(2).

Sign and date next to the reason why the record is not available to the public ie. Closed under FOI exemption; Retained under section 3(4) of the Public Records Act 1958; Temporarily retained; Missing at transfer or Number not used.