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file 31/88  
CC NYW

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

MR. UNWIN  
CABINET OFFICE

**NORTHERN IRELAND CONTINGENCY PLANNING**

Thank you for your minute of 27 June about the Northern Ireland Secretary's conclusions on contingency planning reported in Mr. Ward's letter of 16 June.

While I did not receive your advice before conveying the Prime Minister's views, I did receive Cabinet Office views orally.

I note the further steps that you are taking.

C D POWELL  
27 June 1986

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From: J B UNWIN  
27 June 1986

MR C POWELL - No 10

cc Mr Stark  
Mr Mallaby  
Brig Budd

**NORTHERN IRELAND CONTINGENCY PLANNING**

*FILE WITH COP*  
Your letter of 20 June to the Northern Ireland Office, sent before receiving Cabinet Office advice, reported that the Prime Minister was generally content with the Northern Ireland Secretary's conclusions reported in Mr Ward's letter of 16 June.

2. I should record, however, under my CCU hat, that I am far from satisfied that the Northern Ireland contingency plans are as well prepared as they should be. Following further consultation with Northern Ireland Office officials and HQ Northern Ireland yesterday, the MOD intend to respond to a number of points raised in Mr Ward's letter - particularly the "three week endurance" factor and the viability of certain plans in the absence of prior consultation with experts in the industries concerned. There is, I understand, reason for concern about the maintenance of both electricity and water supplies.

3. A number of other issues also require further attention, such as inadequacies in the arrangements for food distribution, and the manpower implications of keeping essential routes open. In order to progress matters quickly, I am arranging for Brigadier Budd to visit Belfast next week and I will provide further advice when he reports back.

J B UNWIN

IRGIAND Sumatra PR20

