

Note for the Record

**ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS: NORTHERN IRELAND**

The Prime Minister spoke today to the Northern Ireland Secretary about the need for a review mechanism in the draft Anglo-Irish Agreement on Northern Ireland.

The Prime Minister said that it would not be tolerable to be locked into an agreement which was functioning badly, but would be difficult to denounce. We must leave ourselves a retreat. This was particularly important in that the UK concession - a consultative role for the Republic - was incorporated in the agreement, but the potential benefits for the UK - improved security cooperation and SDLP participation in devolved administration - were not.

The Northern Ireland Secretary agreed that a review mechanism was necessary and was anyway a common feature of such agreements. Three years would probably be the appropriate period. Paragraph 4 of the draft agreement should make specific provision for this. He would minute his views. The Prime Minister said that she would support them.

C.D.P.

6 June, 1985.