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Dismissed on  
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Prime Minister ✓

I should welcome the opportunity, as suggested in Sir Robert Armstrong's minute to you of 18 June to discuss with you and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary on Thursday where we now stand in the Anglo-Irish talks.

2. Sir Robert's minute records the anxiety of the Irish side that I should not go too far, at this stage, towards unveiling the subject matter of the talks to the leaders of the Unionist Parties. I have also seen HM Ambassador's, Dublin reports (Dublin Tel Nos 379-381 of 18 June) expressing the Taoiseach's views. I understand these anxieties. As we have recognised in previous discussions, we need to form some assessment of how the Unionist Parties would react to an agreement, and we shall invite accusations of dealing behind their backs if we keep them in ignorance. On the other hand, we do not, at this stage, want to provoke them to action which will prejudice the negotiations that are still to take place. It is not easy to steer a course between these shoals but I am sure that when I see Messrs Molyneux and Paisley - and I cannot keep them at arm's length - I must open up the topic a little more than hitherto. They will have seen the speculation in the Press about the course which the talks are taking and will surely question me about it. I would not envisage going any further than the line taken in the attached speaking note, and I could possibly get away with saying a little less. But I think that it is just about the minimum that can be said at this stage.

3. They are at present understandably concerned about the renewal of PIRA attacks and the recent deaths of policemen. I want to get them to realise that the only way of bringing about a marked improvement in the security situation is to achieve more effective co-operation with the south. In practice this means in return being willing to take account of the Republic's views.

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4. I am copying this minute and enclosure to Geoffrey Howe and Sir Robert Armstrong.

N Jordan  
Private Secretary

19 June 1985

for DH  
(Approved by the Secretary of  
State and signed in his absence  
in Belfast)

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