



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS: NORTHERN IRELAND

Thank you for your minute of 30 July enclosing a revised draft of the proposed communique.

The Prime Minister would be content for you to hand over the revised draft to the Irish side and to make to them the further points proposed in your minute.

I am copying this minute to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and to the Northern Ireland Secretary.

Charles Powell

30 July 1985

TMG



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DRAFT

Ref.A085/2034

MR POWELL

*Speed -  
subject to D.H.'s  
agreement  
ms.*Anglo-Irish Relations: Northern Ireland

A — When I see Mr Nally today and tomorrow I shall speak in line with your minute of 29 July about the title of the Intergovernmental Committee and the omission from a Summit communiqué of mention of the UDR and of release of prisoners.

B — 2. As regards the points about communiqué language in your third paragraph, the intention of the language I submitted on 26 July was to avoid any implication that the British Government might in any way subscribe to criticisms of the security forces which the minority may make in Northern Ireland. It is clear from your minute that the Prime Minister did not feel that the draft was wholly successful in this respect. It has therefore been revised, in consultation with Foreign and Commonwealth and Northern Ireland officials, and I attach a revised version herewith. The modifications are:

a. paragraph 1 has been modified as proposed in your

(i); *[i.e. to make clear that nothing can happen until after Parliament has debated the agreement]*

b. the final phrases of paragraph 2 and paragraph 3(b) have been modified: there is now no reference in paragraph 2 to enhancing confidence in the institutions of law and order, and in paragraph 3(b) the language speaks of the "established policy of the RUC" to discharge its duties even-handedly and with equal respect for the two traditions.

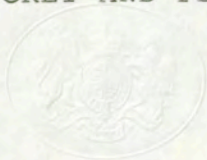


c. We have omitted the former paragraph 4 about the administration of justice (which is of course covered by the reference to legal matters in paragraph 2); and there are no paragraphs about the UDR or the release of prisoners.

3. I have taken copies of the revised draft with me to Chevening and, if you can let my office know whether the Prime Minister is content with the revised draft, I will hand copies over to the Irish side during the course of the meeting. I hope that the Prime Minister will feel able to agree that we should pass the revised text to the Irish. I should be apprehensive that, if we were not to do so, that would create the misleading impression that British Government did not wish to continue to work towards an agreement on the lines under discussion.

4. As to the UDR, I shall have to explain the omission of any reference to it in the communiqué language. I propose to say that when British Ministers considered the matter they underlined the point which we had made to the Irish at our last meeting, that the communiqué language could refer to objectives, but should not refer to measures, so as not to invite misleading speculation; that Ministers considered that a specific reference in the communiqué to changes in the arrangements for the UDR would be likely to arouse strong unionist speculation and concern which could be counter-productive to the efforts to bring them to acquiesce in an agreement; but that Ministers had decided to make the changes to training arrangements of the UDR, including the provision of non-commissioned officers from the regular army, which the Defence Secretary has agreed, and these changes would be put into effect and announced at a suitable moment. One possibility might be that they could be announced by the Secretary of State in the Parliamentary Debate on the agreement; but I should not make a definite commitment to that.





5. I am sending copies of this minute to the Private Secretaries to the Secretaries of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Northern Ireland. Neither of them has seen the attached revised communiqué language. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary is in Helsinki and would be unable to do so in time. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland will see it overnight. I should be grateful if his Private Secretary could let me know as soon as possible whether he is content.

RIA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

30 July 1985



30 July 1985

Anglo-Irish Agreement: Draft Passage for a Communiqué

1. The agreement provides for entry into force as soon as each Government has formally notified the other of acceptance. This exchange of notifications will be completed after the agreement has been considered by the House of Commons and by Dail Eireann. The two Governments intend that action to implement the provisions of the agreement should begin once the exchange of notifications has been completed. The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee will take place as soon as possible thereafter. The British side will be led by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Irish side by [the Minister for Foreign Affairs].

2. The two Governments envisage that the meetings and agenda of the Committee will not normally be announced. But they wish it to be known that at its first meeting the Committee will consider its future programme of work in all the fields - political, security, legal, economic, social and cultural - which come within its remit, and will concentrate in the first instance on:

relations between the security forces and the minority community in Northern Ireland; and

ways of improving security co-operation between the two Governments.

The two sides are determined that progress should be made quickly in these fields, in the interests of all of the people of Northern Ireland.



3. In considering the improvement of relations between the security forces and the minority community, the meeting will address:

a. how the application of the general principle in the conduct of public order in the United Kingdom, that the military operate only in support of the civil power, can be progressively developed as circumstances permit in the operations and deployment of the security forces in Northern Ireland, having regard to considerations of community relations as well as to the need for operational effectiveness;

b. possible ways of underlining the established policy of the Royal Ulster Constabulary that they discharge their duties even-handedly and with equal respect for the unionist and nationalist identities and traditions.

4. In considering the improvement of security co-operation between the two Governments, the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee will also give particular attention to the policing of border areas and consider the implications of the Irish decision, of which the Taoiseach has informed the Prime Minister at the present meeting, to ratify the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism.