

NBPM
CDP
12/9.

Ref. A085/2335

PRIME MINISTERBritish Irish Association

You agreed that it would be right for us to try to persuade the organisers of the National Conference of the British Irish Association to postpone the Conference due to be held from 13 to 15 September (my minute of 23 July Ref. A085/1973 and Mr Powell's minute of 25 July refer).

2. I should report that I met members of the Executive Committee of the Association on 5 September. I made it clear that it was for them to take a decision on the postponement but that I thought it right to make sure that they were aware of the arguments, as seen by the two Governments, for a postponement.

3. The Irish Ambassador spoke to them in similar terms later the same day.

4. The Committee subsequently agreed to postpone their Conference until 10 to 12 January 1986.

5. I am sending copies of this minute to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

RIA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

11 September 1985