

CC SIR P. CRADOCK

We need a meeting
between F.C.S. N.I.S. & myself
referred. not.
60C

SECRET AND PERSONAL

PRIME MINISTER

ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS

I attach a minute from Mr. King. It is a bit of a bombshell. It concludes that major changes are needed to the draft Anglo-Irish Agreement to make it acceptable. It is in effect a declaration of no confidence in the present negotiating team.

Mr. King concludes:

- That the balance of the Agreement is heavily in favour of the Irish. *Mr. present, I. is.*
- That we must press for ratification of the Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism. *Yes*
- That the text of the Agreement must be further amended to remove any hint that the Irish Government will have a say on particularly sensitive issues. *This must be clear from the face of the document*
- That there is a wide difference of perception between the British and Irish sides on the role of the Secretariat.
- That the Secretariat cannot be located in Belfast from the beginning without an unacceptable security risk. *?*

No
possibly

He proposes that he should invite Mr. Barry to London for immediate talks to negotiate these issues. Meanwhile, Cabinet consideration should be deferred (with the implication that the Summit will have to be deferred also).

There is obviously a considerable risk that the Irish would regard a meeting of the sort proposed by Mr. King as a deliberate step back from a nearly-settled Agreement. They

/might call

might call off the negotiations altogether.

I understand that Mr. King and Sir Geoffrey Howe may have a talk on Sunday. I think you will need to see them both early next week. Meanwhile, I see no alternative but for RTA to press ahead with his proposed meeting with Nally on Sunday/Monday; he has your views on the Suppression of Terrorism Convention and the title of the Committee. To call it off would arouse Irish suspicions and lead to press rumours of a breakdown, before we have got our lines straight. But RTA must avoid giving any impression that all is settled.

RTA has also now minuted. He thinks a limited postponement of the Summit negotiable, but anything more risks break-down.

C.D.P.

CHARLES POWELL

27 September 1985

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