

PRIME MINISTER

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ANGLO/IRISH RELATIONS: NORTHERN IRELAND

The Foreign Secretary has now commented on Tom King's minute in predictable terms. Clearly there will have to be a meeting early this week.

Meanwhile Sir Robert Armstrong's meeting with Nally will have to go ahead tonight and tomorrow: to cancel it at short notice will give rise to a great deal of speculation. I am therefore proposing to send him this morning the attached minute with instructions for his meeting with Nally. The key points are that he should wax indignant on the point about the Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism; should make clear that this is not a final round and that negotiations will be needed, possibly at political level, and should begin to alert the Irish to the possibility of at least a brief postponement of the proposed Summit.

Agree that I should send a minute?

C D POWELL

29 September 1985

*PM agreed by phone**UBA**29/9/85*



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS: NORTHERN IRELAND

The Prime Minister will wish to discuss the Northern Ireland Secretary's minute of 27 September early next week with Mr King, the Foreign Secretary and you. Unfortunately this cannot be done before your proposed meeting with Mr Nally.

The Prime Minister agrees that this meeting should nonetheless go ahead. She would like you to make clear the very serious view which she takes of the withdrawal by the Irish side of their commitment to ratify the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism. You should make clear that this is likely to have a serious effect on Ministers' judgement of the overall balance of the draft agreement.. She would also want you to argue firmly for the title Intergovernmental Committee and to pursue the various textual points raised by Mr King. You should avoid giving the impression that your meeting with Mr Nally is in any way a final session and that the results of it only require final ratification by Cabinet. Rather you should suggest * that further discussions probably at Ministerial level will be necessary. Privately with Mr Nally you might indicate likely difficulties over the timing of an Anglo-Irish Summit in the period 23-28 October in the light of the Prime Minister's heavy commitments at that time with CHOGM and Parliament. A little more time may be necessary to complete the discussions and our internal consideration of the results .

This minute is intended only as a steer for your meeting on 29-30 September. The other issues raised by Mr King will need to be considered between Ministers next week.

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

C.D.P.

C D POWELL

28 September 1985