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Ref. A085/2564

MR POWELL *[Signature]*  
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You may like to draw the Prime Minister's attention particularly to the last paragraph of Mr McFarlane's message to me today.

2. That paragraph is not included in the copies which have gone to the Foreign Office and the Northern Ireland Office.

*RA*

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

4 October 1985

CABINET OFFICE

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4 OCT 1985

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FILE No. ....

STANDBY I AM NOW SENDING

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PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG FROM  
ROBERT C. MCFARLANE.

SUBJ: NORTHERN IRELAND

DEAR SIR ROBERT:

THANK YOU FOR THE MESSAGE ON NORTHERN IRELAND.

WE, OF COURSE, HOPE VERY MUCH THAT THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS  
WILL LEAD TO AN ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT. WE RECOGNIZE, AS YOU  
INDICATE, THAT AN AGREEMENT WOULD NOT SOLVE ALL THE MANY  
COMPLEX PROBLEMS OF NORTHERN IRELAND. BUT, IT CERTAINLY WOULD  
BE A POSITIVE STEP, AND ONE THAT I CAN ASSURE YOU WOULD BE  
WELCOMED PUBLICLY BY US.

ALLOW ME TO ALSO ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE WILLING TO EXPLORE THE  
POSSIBILITY OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT. WHILE THERE IS DEEP CONCERN  
HERE OVER THE BUDGET DEFICIT, CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES CONCERN-  
ING A NORTHERN IRELAND RECONSTRUCTION FUND ARE GENERALLY  
POSITIVE.

WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THE POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO PROGRESS THAT  
PREMATURE DISCLOSURE WOULD CAUSE. WE DO, HOWEVER, HOPE THAT AT  
THE APPROPRIATE STAGE YOU FULLY BRIEF STATE ON YOUR PLANS.  
SHOULD WE BE ABLE TO WORK OUT AN OFFER OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT,  
THERE WOULD SURELY BE CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS AND STATE WOULD  
HAVE THE LEAD IN TESTIFYING BEFORE CONGRESS.

AS AN ASIDE, PERMIT ME TO NOTE THAT AN ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT ON  
NORTHERN IRELAND WOULD, IN MY VIEW, HELP EASE OPPOSITION TO OUR  
SUPPLEMENTARY EXTRADITION TREATY.

BEST REGARDS,

BUD

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