



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS: NORTHERN IRELAND

Your minute of 4 October recorded Mr. Nally's suggestion that we might consider signing the Anglo-Irish agreement in New York on 23 or 24 October.

The Prime Minister thinks this a bad idea and agrees that you should firmly discourage it when you meet Mr. Nally.

CHARLES POWELL

7 October 1985

010

Prime Minister
This won't do at all.
It would put us under
time-pressure before the
substance is finalized; &
leave no time for
Cabinet consideration.

Ref. A085/2573

MR POWELL

attached after - No ml

Anglo-Irish Relations: Northern Ireland

Agree to say
no?

CDP
4/x

In the light of the last paragraph of the Prime Minister's letter to the Taoiseach today, Mr Nally rang up to suggest that we might consider signing the Anglo-Irish agreement in New York on 23 or 24 October: it appears that the Taoiseach is expecting to be in New York in the early part of that week anyway, on other business.

2. I am afraid that I do not myself think that this is a very good idea. Presumably the Prime Minister would not have either of the Secretaries of State with her - and the Taoiseach might not have his Minister for External Affairs. Press arrangements would probably not be very easy or very satisfactory. But above all the "vibrations" of New York for this purpose do not feel right, at any rate to me.

3. If you agree, therefore, I propose to discourage this idea when I meet Mr Nally early next week.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

4 October 1985



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