

1 of 13



SECRET PERSONAL

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

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WHITEHALL

LONDON SW1A 2AZ

We must have another meeting and decide

Charles Powell Esq  
No 10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

Prime Minister  
This came in late. I think Mr.

King is wrong to 11 October 1985  
agree to drop "decisions and"  
and to call the Committee an  
"Intergovernmental Conference". He also  
appears to accept the proposed compromise  
on the  
Suppression  
of Terrorism  
Convention  
COP  
4/12

what we are going  
to recommend to Cabinet.  
I should like to be  
near Charles  
very tough - see my  
note on other papers.

My Secretary of State has seen Sir Robert Armstrong's minute to the Prime Minister of 9 October, reporting on the official talks in Dublin earlier this week.

Mr King remains of the view that "permanent" should not be reinserted before "Secretariat" in the last sentence of Article 3 and in paragraph 6 of the summary of the draft text. He feels that, even with the amendments accepted by the Irish, the word "permanent" could convey a false impression of what the Secretariat is all about. Mr King is content with the other three proposals made in paragraph 19 of Sir Robert Armstrong's minute, subject to the points below which have a bearing on proposal 3.

Mr King has expressed concern at the final sentence of paragraph 5 of Sir Robert Armstrong's minute which says that, while the Irish were preparing their legislation to implement the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, "we should be able to propose changes in the system for the administration of justice of a kind which would meet the Irish Government's needs". While he accepts, of course, that it will be incumbent upon the British side to consider any proposals in this area which the Irish may put forward under the Agreement, this is well worn ground which has so far produced little; and he is not optimistic that it will be possible to devise changes which would both satisfy the Irish and be acceptable, politically and juridically, within the UK. He would wish, therefore, officials to avoid suggesting to the Irish side that we have substantial room for manoeuvre in this field. Mr King is particularly concerned that officials should say nothing which might be interpreted as some form of secret undertaking and which might leave the Irish with a false impression of what we might be able to do. His view is that officials should not be drawn any further in this direction; and they should robustly resist any criticism, explicit or implied, of the court system in Northern Ireland.

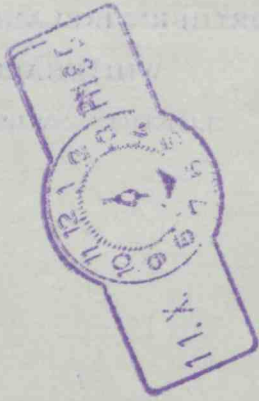
I am copying this letter to Len Appleyard (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and to Michael Stark (Private Secretary to Sir Robert Armstrong).

Yours sincerely

Jing

J A DANIELL

SECRET PERSONAL





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Charles Powell Esq  
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Prime Minister  
Or the Irish were just trying  
to bounce us into early  
signature.  
11 October 1985  
CJP 11/X.

Dear Charles

with COP?

mt

My Secretary of State has seen Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 9 October which reports an allegation that a junior Minister of the NIO had shown to a journalist a copy of the draft Anglo-Irish Agreement. He has asked me to report his view that there is not a grain of truth in it. Only one of our junior Ministers was in Blackpool at the time and he had not seen a copy of the Agreement; nor had Mr King's Parliamentary Private Secretary. In the absence of more precise details from the Irish, Mr King believes that the most likely explanation is that a journalist was misleading them in an attempt to persuade them to divulge information about the Agreement. Another possibility is that the story was invented by the Irish as a means of putting pressure on us for early signature of the Agreement.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely  
Jim

J A DANIELL

SECRET

PERSONAL

