

NB 21  
ZPP's



Prime Minister

Ref. A085/2636

MR POWELL

Nor do I  
mb

I don't like the way these allegations are flying about  
CDN

I have seen a copy of the letter which the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland's Private Secretary sent to you on 11<sup>at nap</sup> October about the allegation that a junior Minister of the Northern Ireland Office had shown to a journalist a copy of the draft Anglo-Irish Agreement.

2. Mr Nally told me in the margins of our meeting today that the allegation now was that a Cabinet Minister had shown a journalist a copy of the draft Agreement, and not in Blackpool. There was some suggestion that this might have happened a little time ago. The indications were that the Cabinet Minister concerned was not the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

3. The source of this allegation is the journalist who claims to be the man to whom a copy of the draft Agreement was shown.

4. On this latest information, the only possible explanation seems to be that some member of OD(I) was responsible for the disclosure. The Prime Minister will remember that OD(I) had copies of the draft Agreement as it then stood at their meeting on 15 July. The papers circulated to the Cabinet for their discussion on 25 July were all withdrawn.

5. The Irish Government remain extremely apprehensive about the consequences of any premature disclosure of the text of the draft Agreement.



6. I am sending copies of this minute to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

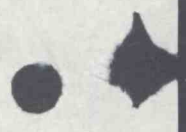
RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

14 October 1985

CONFIDENTIAL

IRELAND : Relations : Pt 10



COMMUNICATIONS