

SECRET AND PERSONAL

PRIME MINISTER

ANGLO/IRISH RELATIONS: NORTHERN IRELAND

You will wish to consider Sir Robert Armstrong's minute about his latest meeting with Mr. Nally.

Most of the points in it are satisfactory. Ones which cause difficulty are:

- i) paragraph 5: You have made clear that you are not prepared to have language on unification in the communique;
- ii) paragraph 7: the Irish refusal to accept reference to "achieving a significant and lasting improvement in the policy of border areas" raises doubts about their intentions. Mr. King is anxious to discuss this with Mr. Barry and will let you have a recommendation. The wording tentatively agreed by RTA is actually not bad. But it is important to get a clear idea of what will actually happen, and this requires discussion at political level;
- iii) paragraph 9: are we content with Irish assurances on the Convention? They seem ready to accept our request.

I have told RTA that postponing a further meeting with Nally until 11/12 November is leaving things too late if there are still problems to resolve. He will try to get him over here next Wednesday.

I think we shall need a further discussion with the Northern Ireland Secretary and the Home Secretary early next week.

*C.D.P.* *Yes not*  
CHARLES POWELL

31 October 1985