



Prime Minister

NORTHERN IRELAND

1. We have a problem which may come to you in the press conference.

2. Today, Tom King speaking at a lunch given by the Brussels Chamber of Commerce is reported by BBC as having said :-

→ || "In Northern Ireland now we have signed an agreement in which the Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland, not withstanding the fact that he faces and has to live with a constitution that has aspirations about sovereignty over Northern Ireland, has in fact accepted that in all practical purposes and into perpetuity, there will never be a United Ireland".

3. In a speech tonight in Brussels Mr King, we are told, will say:-

"It is absolutely clear that Northern Ireland is going to remain a part of the United Kingdom, that is what I support fully. And it is ensured by being the decision of a clear majority in the province. What we have now achieved in our agreement with the Republic of Ireland is that they accept that there will be no change in the status of Northern Ireland either".

4. BBC are pursuing this even though we are making the point that the Treaty speaks for itself.



5. All this may well come to you in your press conference this evening. You will no doubt wish to link Tom King with you in sticking by the terms of the agreement.

6. We are trying to get hold of Tom King to get him to add in his speech tonight at the end of the passage quoted above:

'without the consent of a majority''.

Bernard Ingham

3 December 1985

To ask the Secretary of State for NI if he will make a statement on his speech yesterday and its effects on the implementation of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

I went to Brussels yesterday to explore opportunities for business cooperation. I made two speeches. In both I set out the attraction of Northern Ireland as an investment location, and explained the effects and benefits of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. These remain as my Rt Hon Friend the Prime Minister and I described them to this House last week. Because it has been a matter of concern both to the wider business community and to the people of Northern Ireland I discussed the effect of Article 1. In particular I explained that both the Irish and British Governments had accepted in Article 1 that the status of Northern Ireland would change only with the consent of a majority, and that the present wish of a majority is for no change. I also pointed out that in my judgement that meant that there was no prospect of a united Ireland. That remains my judgement - and my wish. I was not seeking to speak for the Taoiseach. I do not believe my statement will have any effect on the implementation of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Following approval in both Parliaments, our two Governments will proceed to full implementation without delay.

Neil Kinnock

I have the national interest VERY much in mind. It is best served by a clear statement from Tom King. If examination of his words yesterday is left to the Press and other commentators, the agreement will be undermined and only the Provisionals and the Unionist Paramilitaries will benefit from the confusion and inconsistencies. A restatement of confidence on the basis of last week's speeches from Tom King and the Prime Minister will do in answer to the PNQ, but it must be done in the House if we are to have any hope of heading off those who will want to make profit from the confusion.

I think you are in
contact with Mr. Barry
about some remarks by
Tom King.

I have spoken to
Tom King; Private Secretary
in Brussels and told him:

(a) in ~~his~~ his speech

tonight. It must
stick closely to the
text of the Agreement;

(b) the Vice President will
confirm the text of
the Agreement if asked
at her press conference
tonight.

CDD