

CCPC

Ref. A086/438

MR POWELL

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Prime Minister  
 He may hope in this way to  
 deflect pressure CD  
 for more  
 far-reaching measures. 1 1/2  
 It's not enough.

Anglo-Irish Relations: Northern Ireland

I shall be reporting separately on a meeting which I had on Friday 7 February with Mr Nally (the usual supporters being present on either side).

2. In the margins of the meeting Mr Nally told me that the Taoiseach was hoping that, when he came to see the Prime Minister later this month, he would be able to tell her that the Irish Government had decided to sign the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism forthwith, and legislate after signature. It seems that the Irish Government have satisfied themselves that they can proceed in this way (rather than by legislating first and then signing) without being in breach of their Constitution. The Taoiseach has encountered some objections from some of his political colleagues, but expects to have overcome that difficulty by the time he sees the Prime Minister.

3. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

10 February 1986

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ANGLO/IRISH RELATIONS: NORTHERN IRELAND

The Prime Minister has seen your minute of 10 February. While welcoming the fact that the Taoiseach is likely to inform her of the Irish Government's decision to sign the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism forthwith, the Prime Minister sees some danger that he may believe this is all that is required of the Irish Government for the time being. As you know, the Prime Minister will be looking for a more serious effort by the Irish Government in a number of other fields, including cooperation against terrorism and stronger encouragement to the SDLP to support the security forces and to take part in discussions about devolution.

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

(CHARLES POWELL)

12 February 1986

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Jo VC  
c PC