

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

CABINET OFFICE
A 6069
11 JUL 1983
FILE INSTRUCTIONS
FILE No.

From the Private Secretary

Mr Goodall  
 with no doubt cc - Mr Goodall  
 take account of ~~Mr Colvin~~  
 has in the draft minute  
 he is preparing for me to  
 send to the Prime Minister.

MR HATFIELD *REA*

Anglo-Irish Relations

*REA*  
*llw*

As I told Sir Robert Armstrong this morning, the Prime Minister is not happy with the approach proposed in his minute of 8 July for his meeting with the Irish Government Secretary, Mr Dermot Nally, in London today.

Mrs. Thatcher has commented on that minute to the effect that we have little to discuss with the Irish Government except security and European Community matters. In her view, no amount of activity relating to new committees can conceal that fact - indeed it only reveals it more starkly. She has added that it is activity of this kind that gets HMG into difficult situations with the Unionists. Finally, Mrs. Thatcher has expressed doubt as to whether the fact that there is an established dialogue between Dublin and London on relatively uncontentious subjects will give a lower profile to the report of the Forum for a New Ireland.

I am copying this minute to Mr Fall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Mr Lyon (Northern Ireland Office) and Mr. Mottram (Ministry of Defence).

*A. J. Loh.*

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