

typewritten

Sir R. Armstrong

I am glad you feel able to feel less defensive & welcome your amendments.

No comments on them:

but I wd like to go right to the bottom: see suggested deletion (in pencil) in second line of p. 3.

See also a suggested pencilled deletion towards the bottom of p 2, which wd leave it open to us to raise the security points

CONFIDENTIAL



Anglo-Irish Relations

a draft minute for you to send to the Prime Minister with Mr Nally.

have taken account of the Prime Minister's reservations in the draft minute to Mr Hatfield of 11th July; but I have not taken account of the Prime Minister's doubts. It seems to me that there is very little to discuss with the Irish Government on Anglo-Irish Community matters", the Prime Minister may be concerned about the lack of existing official contacts with the Irish as a check list; and that in concentrating on possible solutions she is overlooking the very real dangers of increasing polarisation of the communities in Northern Ireland. To handle the report of the Forum for a New Ireland will be a major bone of contention in Anglo-Irish relations for consideration. But these are points on which I think you should discuss with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Secretary of State. I should like to make the first response to Mr Coles' minute. Please discuss this with Mr Eyers and Mr Angel.

David Goodall

A D S GOODALL

12th July 1983

Mr Goodall

I should prefer to be a little less defensive. Ob., on my amendments will be welcome.

DA 12 iii

points in the Coordinating
Committee if we so wish
(the Home Office or
welcome this).

Did you have any
separate conversation with
Mr Nally on security
issues?

David G. [unclear]

13
/m



Ref: B06823

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONGcc Mr Facer
Mr ColvinAnglo-Irish Relations

As agreed, I submit a draft minute for you to send to the Prime Minister about yesterday's talks with Mr Nally.

2. You will see that I have taken account of the Prime Minister's reservations as expressed in Mr Coles' minute to Mr Hatfield of 11th July; but I have not commented on the substance of the Prime Minister's doubts. It seems to me that, in saying that we have "little to discuss with the Irish Government except security and European Community matters", the Prime Minister may be unaware of the wide range of existing official contacts with the Irish as revealed in the action check list; and that in concentrating on possible difficulties with the Unionists she is overlooking the very real dangers arising from the increasing polarisation of the communities in Northern Ireland. The problem of how best to handle the report of the Forum for a New Ireland so that it does not become a major bone of contention in Anglo-Irish relations also requires further consideration. But these are points on which I think it should be for the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to make the first response to Mr Coles' minute. If you agree, I will suggest this to Mr Evers and Mr Angel.

David Goodall

A D S GOODALL

12th July 1983Mr Goodall

I should prefer to be a little less defensive. Obs. on my amendments will be welcome.

RJA 12 iii