

CONFIDENTIAL

E.R.

AJM/ /SB



cc PS/Ministers (L&B) - M  
PS/Mr Bloomfield - M  
Mr Brennan - M  
Mr Chesterton - M  
Mr Gilliland  
Mr M Elliott  
Mr Bell - M  
Mr A Wood - M  
Mr Ehrman - M

146/12.  
2. A13/VK  
5/12

PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - M

CHARLES POWELL'S LETTER OF 28.11.85 ON ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT

On 28 Novmeber you asked for advice on groups whom the Prime Minister might invite to Downing Street for a lunch and talk. I  
.... attach a draft reply to Mr Powell.

2. I understand that there are also fairly regular Downing Street (and DTI, MAAF etc) receptions for "businessmen", "community leaders", "entrepreneurs" etc. I do not know if Northern Ireland is covered by those but if we could have a number of invitations to such events this would enable more NI people to meet the Prime Minister, and Ministers whose policies apply to Northern Ireland, and to be exposed also to the views of opinion formers in Great Britain. The shock of the Agreement was in part a perception that despite the careful wording of the Agreement the parties in Great Britain no longer understand nor care about the Unionist position in Northern Ireland and would accept (and in the case of the Labour Party positively encourage) a move to Irish unity. With this in mind the more that can be done to include NI people in public occasions with a UK flavour, and recognise Northern Ireland interests before (rather than towards the end of or after), UK policy statements have been made, the better.

3. There will be two (at least) administrative points. Firstly how will invitations be distributed? Given the uncertainties of the post it may be better if No 10 supply invitations which are posted in Northern Ireland. In any event we are now compiling the full address lists. Secondly, who will arrange the London end of the programme? I imagine this might include a [?morning?] meeting with selected Conservative MPs (not the Back Bench Committee which includes stalwart opponents) including perhaps other Ministers (Mr Jopling; Mr Chris Patten), and [an afternoon?] meeting with "Friends of Northern Ireland" who might be led by Mr Prior in his dual role as a businessman and farmer and an ex-Secretary of State, and include some of those whose firms have invested in Northern Ireland and have a keen interest



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in its future like Sir Derek Rayner; Mr Michael Bishop (British Midland), one of the Hambro's; Sir John Sparrow (Morgan Grenfell; V/C Shorts, ex-CPRS); Sir Maurice Hodgson (British Home Stores), and a Laing Director.

4. The Secretary of State may want to discuss the lists, and approach, before you write to No 10.

*MR.*

A J MERIFIELD

4 December 1985



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DRAFT REPLY TO CHARLES POWELL

In your report of the discussion on Northern Ireland which took place after Cabinet last week, you asked if we could let you have two to three groups of opinion formers who might be invited to meet the Prime Minister (for a talk and lunch).

2. I enclose three such lists. In compiling these we have kept in mind the difficulties of responding to groups including members with very different perceptions of the Agreement. Thus the second and third groups include persons who will be strongly opposed to the Agreement but we have tried to set them alongside businessmen of their own religious background who will be looking squarely at the realities of maintaining business life in the Province. The first list provides a mixed group who, despite their personal feelings for or against, would engage in constructive two-way dialogue. In each gathering we have tried to include people with different interests (church, business, community etc) and have added a number of Chairmen and Mayors of District Councils who are influential in their own right. Most Chairmen of Union persuasion have said they will not have further dealings with British Ministers but in the circumstances we believe it would be right to try to expose them to the Prime Minister.

3. As you know the Unionist opposition to the Agreement is based on three perceptions - that <sup>(sic)</sup> it gives a Republic aiming for Irish unity an influential voice in Northern affairs; that the Agreement is unlikely to deliver on security (and if it does, why have the Republic not done more before without the carrot of a voice in Northern Ireland affairs) and that Parliament no longer seems concerned about the Unionists' case (and in Labour Party quarters at least positively supports moves to secure Irish unity sooner or later). In these



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circumstances it may be helpful if representatives of Northern Ireland interests could be invited also to the periodic receptions given to representative groups of businessmen, farmers, community leaders etc at No 10, or given by those Ministers whose policies have a bearing in Northern Ireland (eg Agriculture, Trade and Industry). Those invited from Northern Ireland would then be able to hear the views of their GB peers as well as meet the Prime Minister or her GB colleagues.

4. Perhaps you could let me have an idea of dates as soon as possible so that we can arrange for any supplementary meetings - for example with backbenchers, or with a group of <sup>London</sup> businessmen with investment in Northern Ireland.



E.P.

FIRST GATHERING "MODERATES" who would engage in two-way discussion

Sir Desmond Lorrimer

Sir Peter Froggatt

Sir Oliver Napier\*

Sir Robert Kidd

Rt Rev James Mahaffy

Dr Bill Addley

Professor Desmond Rea

Mr Tom Rainey

Mr John McAvoy\*

Mr Ed Haughey\*

Sir Myles Humphries

Reserves

Mr J V Simpson

Dr Norman Taggart

Mr F A Mackle\*

Chairman Northern Bank; former Chairman IDB.

Vice Chancellor Queen's University.

Solicitor (former Leader Alliance Party).

Jt Chairman Co-operation North; Chairman Allied Irish Banks Belfast; former Head NI Civil Service.

Bishop of Derry and Raphoe (CofI).

Senior Presbyterian Minister, Londonderry.

Dept of Business and Management Studies, Ulster University; Convenor of several policy discussion groups.

Managing Director Rothman's; Chairman CBI(NI).

Deputy Chairman NIHE; ex-Mayor Newry and Mourne District Council.

Chairman NI Institute of Directors; MD Northbrook Laboratories.

Chairman Police Authority; and wide NI interests

Chairman Eastern Health & Social Services Board; broadcaster; University lecturer.

Methodist Church, Belfast.

NI Secretary, Irish Nat Teachers Association.

SECOND GATHERING

Rt Rev Gordon McMullan

Dr T Simpson

Mr Peter Smith QC

Mr John Carson

Mr Roy Lilley

Mr Desmond Smyth

Mr Willoughby Wilson

Mr George Chambers

Mr W R C Martin

Sir Robin Kinahan ERD JP

Mr John Spence

Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher.

Clerk to the Presbyterian Church General Assembly.

Barrister; adviser to UUP [therefore may refuse Lord Mayor of Belfast. UUP. " " "

Editor Belfast Telegraph.

Managing Director UTV.

Senior Surgeon Royal Victoria Hospital.

Managing Director Milk Marketing Board (former Chairman CBI in Northern Ireland).

President Ulster Farmers Union.

Businessman; Lord Lt. Wide connections in business world, with UDR etc.

Chairman NI Training Authority. Managing Director Richardson's (ICI)



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### Reserves

Mr V Haslett,	Insurance interest, Chairman Sports Council.
Mr Rowan Hamilton	Chairman Local Enterprise Development Unit.
Professor Desmond Greer	Vice-Chairman SACHR; Law Lecturer.

### THIRD GATHERING

Mr Ralph Brown	Chairman Dungannon District Council (UUP).
Mr Jack Allen	Chairman Antrim District Council (UUP).
Capt W Henderson	Owner, Belfast Newsletter.
Sir John Swinson OBE	Chairman, NI Tourist Board.
Mr Dawson Moreland CBE	Ormeau Bakery; business interests in farm feedstocks etc; Chairman Health Central Services Agency.
Mr C Toby Hurst OBE	Businessman; Chairman Belfast Harbour Commissioners.
Mr T John Parker	Chairman, Harland & Wolff.
Mr Eric McDowell	Chairman IDB (newly appointed).
Mr Ivan Tinman	Managing Director, Downtown Radio.
Mr N G D Ferguson JP DL	Chairman, NI Housing Executive. Ex-UUP politician.
Mr P A McCartan	Area Secretary APCCS; Member IDB.

### Reserves

Dr J Kincade	Principal, Methodist College Belfast. BBC NI Governor.
Mr Victor Chambers	NI Bankers Association.
Mr J McCusker	NI Public Service Alliance