

June Ringer
CDP 40A
14/3

DUSTY

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MR POWELL

*Returned
R 4/4*

*Passage deleted and retained under Section 3(4).
Wayland, 20 June 2014*

2. As our Ambassador in Dublin has reported, there have been a number of reports in Irish newspapers recently which have been disturbingly well informed about the subjects under discussion between the British and Irish Governments. These leaks are very regrettable, because they tend to pre-empt any agreement which might eventually be reached, and thus to deprive it of whatever value it might then have.

3. In the attached report Dr FitzGerald attributes the leaks to British (or Northern Irish) sources. I know of no evidence to support this. It seems more likely that leaks to Irish newspapers would have come from Irish sources, and I suspect that their purpose is to try to keep up the momentum of the discussions with the Irish Government with a view to reaching agreement before the local government elections in Northern Ireland in May.

REA

[Handwritten signature]

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

14 March 1985