

PRIME MINISTER

## NORTHERN IRELAND

Enoch Powell came to see the Lord President today to convey to you some thoughts about the way ahead in Northern Ireland. The Lord President has given me the following account of their conversation.

Enoch Powell said that he had some ideas which he wanted to pass to you, but did not wish to go through the Foreign Office or the Northern Ireland Office since he had no confidence in them. The essence of his idea was that Mr Haughey's political position in the Republic was strong enough to enable him to do something which none of his predecessors could have done and put an end to the problem of Northern Ireland in Anglo/Irish relations. He was convinced that Haughey was fed up with being branded as a traitor because of his participation in the Anglo/Irish Agreement and wanted to be rid of the problem altogether. He would be prepared to take bold steps to achieve this, including giving 'constitutional legitimacy' to Northern Ireland as part of the United Kingdom. He had drafted some proposals which he handed over (attached). Enoch Powell continued that he worked on the assumption that you were less than one hundred per cent convinced of the value of the Anglo/Irish Agreement, but would not budge from it unless there were alternative arrangements which were wholeheartedly accepted by the Unionists and the Republic.

The paper is skilfully drafted but is in essence a cover for full integration of Northern Ireland into the United Kingdom, even though presented as merely an extension of the Anglo/Irish Agreement. It is impossible to see how Mr Haughey could accept it. If he is already pilloried for the Anglo/Irish Agreement he would surely suffer even worse for this. More importantly, there are no grounds for assuming that such a step would do anything to diminish violence by PIRA, indeed it would probably increase it.



PERSONAL

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Yes  
All that said, you may think it best to remain in contact with Enoch Powell on these issues. Could we perhaps have a word on how best to handle a reply? You need to decide in particular whether or not to involve Tom King on a strictly personal basis and get his assessment of Enoch Powell's proposals.

C.D.P.

CHARLES POWELL

3 February 1989

PERSONAL

EAMAMQ



## Enoch Powell proposals

1. A meeting of the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council to be held for the purpose of reaching agreement on the following lines:

- (i) The Council to establish machinery for on-going joint consultation between the two governments on all matters, economic, security, judicial, external, but NOT constitutional, which affect both countries, including the rights and interests of their respective citizens in the other country.
- (ii) HMG to establish a Commission to recommend to it, within a short time limit, provision for re-establishing local government in Northern Ireland on a basis as close as possible to that of local government in the UK and Republic, for the purpose of administering the same matters as are administered by the corresponding local authorities in the UK.
- (iii) HMG to propose to Parliament arrangements for securing for Northern Ireland parity of treatment with the rest of the UK for all parliamentary purposes, including legislation, accountability, and select committee supervision.
- (iv) The above to be underpinned by a joint parliamentary body, with secretariat, reflecting on an equal basis the political composition of the respective representative Houses.

2. If agreement can be reached on the above lines, the leaders of those Northern Ireland parties represented in and attending Parliament to be brought into direct consultation with the contracting parties upon the matters agreed, within the framework of the Intergovernmental Council, wherever sitting.

3. Subject to satisfactory outcome of consultation under para 2, these arrangements to be regarded as making improved provision for the purposes envisaged by the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985, of which they would be regarded as an extension and implementation and as representing the outcome of the review provided for under the terms of that Agreement.



cc/c



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The Right Honourable John Wakeham MP  
Lord President  
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20 January 1989

Dear Lord President,

When we met yesterday I explained that I was grateful to the Lord Chancellor for his agreement that an appeal to the House of Lords should be mounted in respect of the decision of the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal in the case of Burns, Toman and McKerr. I understand that the other recipients of his letter of 16 January were also content with this course. As a separate issue, we also discussed the general question of what might be done to prevent members of the security forces from having to appear at inquests in Northern Ireland into cases of death in which they were involved, should an appeal to the House of Lords fail.

Technically it would be possible to amend the Coroners Act (NI) 1959 by Order in Council so as to reinstate Rules 9(2) and (3) which were ruled to be ultra vires by the Northern Ireland Appeal Court. The effect of those rules (which were peculiar to Northern Ireland) was that noone who had caused a death was a compellable witness at the inquest into that death, irrespective of whether he or she had any connection with the security forces. However, any Order which sought to re-establish that position in Northern Ireland alone would be open to the telling criticism that if such a measure is right for the Province, it should also be right for England and Wales, since the