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From the Private Secretary

6 February 1989

Enoch Powell has recently let us have indirectly the enclosed note containing a proposal for making progress in Northern Ireland. Although skilfully drafted, it is in practice simply another suggestion for the full integration of Northern Ireland into the United Kingdom. Although Enoch Powell claims that Mr Haughey would accept something on these lines and is politically strong enough in the Republic to carry it through, it is hard to see in practice how this could be so. More importantly, there are no grounds for assuming that Enoch Powell's proposal would do anything to diminish violence by the PIRA: indeed it would probably increase it.

The Prime Minister would not wish Enoch Powell's note to be seen by officials in your Department. Nor would she wish your Secretary of State to raise the matter directly with Enoch Powell. But if he has any comments on the note which he would like us to take account of in formulating a response, which would be sent through the same indirect channel, she would be grateful to have them. It would be best if you were to put them in a personal letter to me.

Charles Powell

Stephen Leach Esq
Northern Ireland Office.