



CONFIDENTIAL

10 DOWNING STREET

FleXB

Ireland.

From the Private Secretary

5 May 1981

BT for mtg (not yet fixed)

ANGLO/IRISH JOINT STUDIES

The Prime Minister has seen Robert Armstrong's minute to her of 29 April, and his subsequent minute to me of 1 May, on this subject. As you know, she was not at all happy with the papers attached to that minute. She is not prepared for them to be put to the Irish in their present form. It will, therefore, be necessary to have an early Ministerial meeting to discuss the way ahead. We here will be arranging this.

I am sending copies of this minute to John Halliday (Home Office), Roderic Lyne (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Stephen Gomersall (Lord Privy Seal's Office), Roy Harrington (Northern Ireland Office) and Brian Norbury (Ministry of Defence).

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

D. J. Wright, Esq.,  
Cabinet Office.

SP

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B/F to Ministerial  
meeting when arranged.

Paul

10 DOWNING STREET

3 May 1987.

THE PRIME MINISTER

Anglo-Irish Joint Studies -

This is the most alarming set of papers on the U.K. / Irish situation I have read. They reveal starkly a total difference of approach. We are trying to achieve increasing co-operation and reconciliation between our two countries, i.e. U.K. and the Republic. They are using every study as a step towards takeover. If these papers go ahead to publication even on an agreed to differ basis I am not prepared to go on with the studies. The Irish view would view such mistrust, hostility and downright anger in the North that it would set Anglo-Irish relations back for years and do untold harm to many innocent people if the Protestant para-military groups reacted. It is no longer a question of changing the wording of a few sentences. We are at the heart of the matter Mrs.