



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
GREAT GEORGE STREET,  
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*see Ireland: Pt 4 Humpel Strike*

27 May 1981

Michael Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

Dear Michael

*see Ireland: Pt 4 Humpel Strike*

With his letter of 26 May, Stephen Boys-Smith enclosed papers on the present state of the Catholic Community and the Protestant Community in Northern Ireland. You also have a paper from us on the current perceptions of the Provisional movement.

By way of further background briefing, I now enclose notes on the following:

- A. The security situation (including statistics)
- B. The local election results
- C. The Northern Ireland economy
- D. The present state of play on better government for Northern Ireland
- E. International implications, including the Republic of Ireland.

Since the draft programme suggests a visit to the Belfast segment, I also enclose a brief note on that (Brief F), and in case it is thought helpful I also enclose a very brief note (Brief G) about the Church leaders whom the Prime Minister may meet.

I shall let you have the steering brief<sup>\*</sup> and any other material (such as any further thoughts on the draft speech) as soon as they are available.

(\* Now attached.)

Yours sincerely  
M W HOPKINS *Mike Hopkins*