

I agree with Lord C.
The Irish want the word
'Council' precisely because
it conveys the very message
Ref. A04810 we do not want

Bonnie Minister (1)

I refused to submit these papers to you
until your colleagues had given their
views. These are now set out below.
They are correct except on the reference
to an 'Anglo-Irish Council': this will
presumably have to be the subject of a
further Ministerial meeting. Subject to
that, do you agree that the drafts can
be sent to the Irish? Amk 1/5

MR ALEXANDER

CONFIDENTIAL

Further - I should be reluctant to
send the draft to
the Irish
until the
Council is
provisionally
agreed with
the Foreign
Secretary
and
resolved.

In the light of your minute to Mr Wright of 29 April and of the extreme difficulty of assembling a meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Anglo-Irish Relations in the limited time available, it was agreed yesterday that before my minute of 29 April was put to the Prime Minister the Cabinet Office should first establish that its Ministerial recipients were content with what was there proposed.

2. The Home Secretary, the Lord Privy Seal and the Secretary of State for Defence have all now seen the papers and agree with them. The Home Secretary, who against the Sunningdale background was at the Prime Minister's meeting on 19 March particularly doubtful about "The Anglo-Irish Council" as a title for the proposed intergovernmental structure, has now indicated specifically that he would be content with that title, provided that the Prime Minister was also content. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has also seen and agreed the papers, although he does not wish to underestimate the difficulties which using the "Council" title might involve.

3. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary (who is not a member of the Ministerial Committee on Anglo-Irish Relations) has not yet had time to study the papers. Mr Walden, who expects him to agree with them, hopes he will do so this evening, or at latest while flying to Rome on Sunday. Mr Walden will arrange for the No 10 Duty Clerk to be informed of Lord Carrington's views as early as possible during the weekend.

See now
Mr Wade-Clegg's
minute,
attached.
Amk

a letter from Lord Carrington's office
saying our two views has now arrived
and is unambiguously clear.

RAA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

1 May 1981

Anglo-Irish Co-operation
Council? CONFIDENTIAL