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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 December 1980

Mr.
Dear Michael,

Anglo/Irish Summit

I attach a copy of FCO telegram no 155 to Dublin which we sent at your request this morning.

The Counsellor in Dublin spoke as instructed to Mr Nally this afternoon. Mr Nally subsequently telephoned the following message, which clearly had the Taoiseach's approval:-

"We have received the message and have followed with admiration the very skilful way in which questions have been answered. We are fully aware of the difficulties and will do nothing to exacerbate them. We propose to follow suit in dealing with the matter with great care."

I am sending a copy of this letter to Roy Harrington in the Northern Ireland Office.

Yours own

Paul

(P Lever)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON

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OO DUBLIN (DESKBY 101415Z)
GRS 175
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DESKBY 101415Z
FM FCO 101331Z DEC 80
TO IMMEDIATE DUBLIN
TELEGRAM NUMBER 155 OF 10 DECEMBER
INFO IMMEDIATE NIO BELFAST
ANGLO-IRISH SUMMIT

1. PLEASE TAKE AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO THE TAOISEACH'S OFFICE, PREFERABLY NALLY, ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES. YOU HAVE DISCRETION TO SPEAK SIMILARLY TO THE DFA IF YOU THINK IT USEFUL.
2. WE READILY UNDERSTAND THAT THE TAOISEACH HAS PRESENTATIONAL PROBLEMS IN EXPLAINING PARA. 6 OF THE COMMUNIQUE, AND THAT HE IS BOUND TO COME UNDER PRESSURE TO COMMENT ON SUGGESTIONS THAT 'NEW INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES' MIGHT INCLUDE FEDERAL OR CONFEDERAL ARRANGEMENTS. WE HAVE NOTED THE CARE WITH WHICH HE RESPONDED TO SUCH SUGGESTIONS AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, BUT THIS DID NOT STOP THE PRESS FROM INTERPRETING WHAT HE SAID AS CONFIRMATION THAT SUCH IDEAS ARE ON THE TABLE. WE HOPE THE TAOISEACH WILL RECOGNIZE THAT SUCH REPORTS CAUSE CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTIES FOR HMG AND THAT HE WILL TAKE GREAT CARE, BOTH IN TALKING TO THE PRESS AND IN TOMORROWS DAIL DEBATE, TO SAY NOTHING WHICH WOULD ENCOURAGE SPECULATION OF THIS KIND.

CARRINGTON

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