



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

NORTHERN IRELAND.

1. Jim Molyneaux is planning to speak in the Queens Speech Debate on Friday, 21st November.
2. I had a perfectly friendly word with Humphrey in the Lobby last evening, and asked what would be his reaction if the Official Unionists were to suggest that, say in July of next year, additional powers should be given to District Councils, partly in order to stop the absurdity of Ministers dealing with trifling matters, which really ought to be dealt with by local people on the spot.
3. Humphrey said that he understood the reasoning which lay behind this suggestion, but said that it would be very strongly opposed indeed by the S.D.L.P.
4. In particular, Humphrey mentioned the case of the Lisburn District Council, which had recently given instructions that its dustmen were not to collect rubbish from the houses of Roman Catholics. The S.D.L.P. believed that any increase in the powers of District Councils, would mean an increase in discrimination against the minority community.
5. I did not tell Humphrey that I had seen Enoch (who is dining with me alone on Monday) and it was agreed that Humphrey and I should have a further word, which I will try to do before I see Enoch on Monday.

14th November, 1980

Ian Gow

Private and Confidential.

18th November, 1980

Following our talk this morning, I enclose the text of part of the speech which Jim Molyneaux has in mind to make on Friday in the House, if he should be called.

I explained that Jim Molyneaux would consider, sympathetically, any change to this passage of his speech, if you felt that anything in it would be unhelpful to the Government.

Jim also sent a message to the effect that if you thought that his suggestion would be unhelpful at the present time, then he would not make it.

Ian Gow

The Rt. Hon. Humphrey Atkins, M.P.