



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

Sir Robert Armstrong

Anglo-Irish Relations: Northern Ireland

Your minute of 27 November to the Prime Minister proposed that she should send a message to the Taoiseach, following up their discussion at the Anglo/Irish Summit; and put on record the Government's views on the Forum Report in the form of a written Parliamentary Question and Answer.

The Prime Minister is not enamoured of either proposal. She sees no reason to give the impression that we have something for which we need to apologise to the Irish Government or to be seen to be stating views on the Forum Report under pressure from them. She thinks that the device of a written Parliamentary Question and Answer would be obviously contrived. She does not agree to it.

The Prime Minister is ready to send a somewhat shorter message to Dr. FitzGerald. I enclose the version which she would be prepared to sign. It would be helpful to know, if possible in the course of today, whether her Ministerial colleagues believe that the message would serve a useful purpose in this form, or whether it would be better to drop the idea of a message altogether.

I am copying this minute and enclosure to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

28 November, 1984.

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C.D.P.

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