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*Mr. Wickes a.r.*  
*I am content with this*



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*10A CDD*

8 October 1985

*07/x.*

*Dear Charles,*

ANGLO-IRISH DISCUSSIONS ON NORTHERN IRELAND:  
MINISTERIAL SECURITY

*Part 9 att*

Thank you for your letter of 23 September, referring to the implications for Ministerial security which might result from the conclusion of an Anglo-Irish agreement related to Northern Ireland. You will probably by now have seen JIC(85)(N)94, which goes about as far in threat assessment terms as it is possible to do at present. That suggests that signature of an agreement would be unlikely, on its own, to make a material difference to the threat to Ministers, but the operational consequences for the police and others involved will be discussed in the mixed group of officials and police which meets for this purpose in the Cabinet Office, namely TO(PI) Committee. The Home Secretary will consider the outcome, and report as necessary to the Prime Minister and other Ministers concerned.

This subject is, of course, for understandable reasons, being handled on an extremely restricted basis. There will come a time, perhaps no more than a fortnight before the possible date of signature, when the circle of those in the know will need to be widened. Reactions in Northern Ireland will depend to some extent upon the content of any agreement, and there may therefore need to be a limited widening of knowledge in that Department. On the mainland, it is likely to be necessary for those attending the CIG, including one or two representatives of the Metropolitan Police Special Branch, to know the date and location of any signature of an agreement, and the timetable for any public consequences such as announcements, debates in Parliament, or the implementation of particular provisions affecting either Northern Ireland or the mainland. We would not rule out the possibility, if security requires it, that those concerned should assess two or three alternative scenarios, without necessarily needing to know which is the right one. We would propose to discuss with the Foreign Office and the Northern Ireland Office the moment of, and the extent of, any limited disclosure to those who need to know of the intended arrangements

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I am sending a copy of this letter to Jim Daniell in the Northern Ireland Office and Michael Stark in the Cabinet Office, and additionally to Len Appleyard in the Foreign Office.

*True.*  
*S W Boys Smith*

S W BOYS SMITH

Charles Powell, Esq.

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