

CONFIDENTIAL AND PERSONAL
From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
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15 FEB 1991
N.I.O. LONDON

*PA file
Mutual
minutes*

CC :
Ps / Pus (L)
Mr Pilling
Mr Reveall

Sir Charles Powell KCMG
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

February 1991

NORTHERN IRELAND: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Northern Ireland Secretary briefed the Prime Minister this afternoon on political developments in Northern Ireland and in the Republic. There were signs that the Irish Government were backing away from support for his initiative. He would continue to try to keep them in play. But we could not afford to let matters drag on indefinitely, and a conclusion either way would have to be reached in about a month.

PA 23699 A

NORTHERN IRELAND: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Thank you for your letter of 13 February about the Prime Minister's meeting earlier that day with Mr Brooke.

In respect of your reference to the Prime Minister being opposed to any sort of concession, my Secretary of State has commented that his recollection of this is rather different, in that the point (which he made) was that the Government might be asked, not now but perhaps later in the year, for things which it would not feel able to grant (and which he would not recommend it to grant).

Yours sincerely
Tony Pawson

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