



**THE ALLIANCE PARTY
OF
NORTHERN IRELAND**

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JTA/MA

17/11/88

To: Members of Political Strategy Committee

From: John T Alderdice, Party Leader

There will be a meeting to discuss our submission to Government in respect of the Review of the Anglo-Irish Agreement on Thursday 24/11/88, at 8.30 pm in 55 Knock Road, Belfast.

Please find enclosed a response from the Secretary of State in respect of my enquiries about the workings of the Anglo-Irish Conference from the Secretariat.

Anyone who wishes to read the details of individual Conference communique, or indeed of all the past Conference communique, can find them on consultation at Party Headquarters.



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Stormont Castle
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15 November 1988

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. J. [unclear]".

Thank you for your letter of 2 November. I look forward very much to receiving your submission on the Review under Article 11 of the Agreement.

You asked for a statement on the subjects raised at the Conference over the past three years. Details are given in the joint statements issued after each meeting. You may well have a set of these already to hand, but in case you do not, I enclose one, along with a table of meetings, and their locations (which I gave in reply to a Parliamentary Question from Harold McCusker recently).

As for the Secretariat, its function is that set out in Article 3 of the Agreement: "servicing the Conference on a continuing basis in the discharge of its functions as set out in this Agreement". Apart from work directly in connection with meetings of the Conference and its subgroups, such as fixing dates, discussing agendas, and preparing notes, the Secretariat has also developed as the channel of confidential communication, on matters within the scope of the Agreement, from one side of the Conference to the other, between meetings; business of this sort, in fact, takes up a large part of



its time. Obviously I cannot make public details of all these exchanges, any more than we normally publish comprehensive records of diplomatic exchanges: no subjects are handled which are not proper to the Conference.

The work of our side of the Secretariat is discharged by three officials, along with support staff. Without wishing to be unhelpful, I think it is for the Irish Government to answer about its own arrangements.

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TK *[Handwritten signature]*

E.R.

MEETINGS OF THE ANGLO IRISH INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
11 December 1985	Belfast
30 December 1985	London
10 January 1986	London
13 February 1986 (Ministerial sub-group)	London
11 March 1986	Belfast
9 May 1986	London
17 June 1986	Belfast
29 July 1986	London
6 October 1986	Dublin
31 October 1986 (Ministerial sub-group)	London
8 December 1986	Belfast
22 April 1987	Belfast
16 July 1987	London
21 October 1987	Belfast
16 November 1987	Dublin
2 February 1988	Belfast
16 February 1988	Belfast
24 February 1988	Dublin
25 March 1988	London
4 May 1988	Dublin
17 June 1988	Belfast
27 July 1988	London
13 September 1988	Dublin
2 November 1988	Belfast