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BT. 3ST

6th February 1968.

It has occurred to us from time to time that some people in Whitehall may be under the mistaken impression that there is more to the discussions between the two Prime Ministers in Ireland than appears on the face of public announcements. It goes without saying that we would not want any idea to spread that there is any kind of secret 'deal' involved; or that, contrary to the stated policy of our Prime Minister, there is any question of political or constitutional commitments now or in the future.

We feel it might be helpful in this setting for you to have the enclosed copies of the notes of the two recent meetings between Captain O'Neill and Mr. Lynch. One set is intended for you and the other for your Home Office colleagues. On the whole we would prefer not to supply the notes to the Commonwealth Office, but if the subject ever crops up your Home Office colleagues should feel quite free to emphasise from their own knowledge that these talks are, in fact, confined to purely practical problems.

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