NORAID VISIT

You may have seen that Martin Galvin had secured some publicity for his request to the Secretary of State and the Unionist parties for a meeting with the NORAID party when they visit Northern Ireland next month. We have now received the letter, which I attach.

2. I suggest the letter receive a short Private Secretary reply. I attach a draft and would welcome any comments on it.

3. I suggest Mr Barrie might inform Washington of this correspondence and let them know the terms of our reply when it has been sent. Subject to any views Mr Gilliland may have, I suggest we do not ourselves issue the text to the press either here or in America, but should make it available if asked with the thought that this is a propaganda ploy at its most transparent.

4. In view of the imminence of the visit, it would be helpful if colleagues could let me have any comments, by telephone if convenient, by close of business on 26 July.

J M Lyon
25 July 1984
You wrote to the Secretary of State on 16 July.

The Secretary of State has made repeatedly clear that he is not prepared to have discussions with people who do not renounce violence in Northern Ireland. Sinn Fein have explicitly and repeatedly failed to do this. He would be glad to hear that your delegation have renounced violence.