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SECRET AND PERSONAL

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RECEIVED BY
-7 OCT 1985
PRIVATE OFFICE

1 fcc PS/S/S B M
389 PS/M/S/L
489 PS/P/S/L B M
Mr Bloomfield M
Mr Brennan
Mr Stephens M
Mr Chesterton
Mr Bell

HEAD OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
SERVICE

Ref. A085/2563

MR POWELL

2A14/1

Anglo-Irish Relations: Northern Ireland

I attach a copy of Mr McFarlane's reply to the message which I sent him at the beginning of the week on Northern Ireland.

2. It is an interesting thought that the signature of an Anglo-Irish agreement would help "ease opposition" to the United Kingdom/United States Supplementary Extradition Treaty. That would be a useful bonus, though not of course a reason for agreeing an agreement which in other respects fell short of being acceptable.

3. I am sending copies of this minute to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

4 October 1985

RECEIVED
174
10 OCT 1985
MUF&X
STORMONT HOUSE ARMS

CABINET OFFICE
7921
4 OCT 1985
THE SECRETARY
OF STATE

STANDBY I AM NOW SENTING

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FM THE WHITE HOUSE
TO THE CABINET OFFICE
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S E C R E T VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS W00077

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO SIF ROBERT ARMSTRONG FROM
ROBERT C. MCFARLANE.

SUBJ: NORTHERN IRELAND

DEAR SIF ROBERT:

THANK YOU FOR THE MESSAGE ON NORTHERN IRELAND.

WE, OF COURSE, HOPE VERY MUCH THAT THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS
WILL LEAD TO AN ANGLIC-IRISH AGREEMENT. WE RECOGNIZE, AS YOU
INDICATE, THAT AN AGREEMENT WOULD NOT SOLVE ALL THE MANY
COMPLEX PROBLEMS OF NORTHERN IRELAND. BUT, IT CERTAINLY WOULD
BE A POSITIVE STEP, AND ONE THAT I CAN ASSURE YOU WOULD BE
WELCOMED PUBLICLY BY US.

ALLOW ME TO ALSO ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE WILLING TO EXPLORE THE
POSSIBILITY OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT. WHILE THERE IS DEEP CONCERN
HERE OVER THE BUDGET DEFICIT, CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES CONCERN-
ING A NORTHERN IRELAND RECONSTRUCTION FUND ARE GENERALLY
POSITIVE.

WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THE POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO PROGRESS THAT
PREMATURE DISCLOSURE WOULD CAUSE. WE DO, HOWEVER, HOPE THAT AT
THE APPROPRIATE STAGE YOU FULLY BRIEF STATE ON YOUR PLANS.
SHOULD WE BE ABLE TO WORK OUT AN OFFER OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT,
THERE WOULD SURELY BE CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS AND STATE WOULD
HAVE THE LEAD IN TESTIFYING BEFORE CONGRESS.

AS AN ASIDE, PERMIT ME TO NOTE THAT AN ANGLIC-IRISH AGREEMENT ON
NORTHERN IRELAND WOULD, IN MY VIEW, HELP EASE OPPOSITION TO OUR
SUPPLEMENTARY EXTRADITION TREATY.

BEST REGARDS,

BUD

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NNN