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PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (L&B) M

cc PS/Mr Scott (L&B) M
PS/PUS(L) M
Mr Bloomfield 4/12
Mr Gilliland



ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT : PR GROUP

At the Secretary of State's meeting on Monday evening we discussed arrangements for handling the PR aspect of the Agreement and I suggested that this might best be done by the formation of an ad hoc group within the Office. I have elaborated this suggestion in the attached note which I have shown to Mr Scott and Mr Gilliland. If SofS is content with the proposal in this form I suggest that it might be incorporated in your note of the meeting.

4 December 1985

R J ANDREW

Encl

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ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT : PR GROUP

It has been decided to establish within the Office a small group to advise the Secretary of State on public relations aspects of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. The group, which will normally meet in Belfast on a daily basis or as required, will be chaired by Mr Scott, or in his absence by Mr Gilliland. Other members will include Mr R Templeton (who will be temporarily detached from other duties for this task) and representatives from PAB, LOB and Information Services in London. Representatives from other parts of the NIO and NI Departments may be invited to attend as necessary.

The Group will monitor developments following the conclusion of the Anglo-Irish Agreement and review the Government's strategy on the presentation of the Agreement. It will identify opportunities for Ministerial speeches, broadcasts, letters, newspaper articles, etc; and will either prepare the necessary material itself or commission it from other parts of the office. Among other things, the group will consider commissioning opinion surveys as a means of ascertaining public attitudes to the Agreement so that the PR campaign can be directed to the best effect.

The work of the group and the need for its continuance will be reviewed in two month's time.

3 December 1985

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