



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 November 1985

EM

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's Speech in the Debate on the Anglo-Irish Agreement

with COP — Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 21 November to Jim Daniell enclosing the latest version of the Prime Minister's draft speech. Sir Geoffrey Howe thinks that the draft is very much on the right lines and has only one or two suggestions to make on it.

✓ In the second paragraph on page 4, it would be worth adding "all" before "the law abiding people of Northern Ireland" to make it clear that this refers to those in both communities in Northern Ireland who are opposed to violence.

On page 13, add a new sentence at the end of the second line to read: "It commits both governments to make determined efforts to resolve any differences". It is true that this provision is referred to on page 24 of the draft; but it is such an important part of Article 2 that its omission here would look disingenuous.

On page 17, insert "in good faith" after "consider" in the third line from the end of the first paragraph.

At the top of page 18, "Gardai" should read "Garda Siochana" (pronounced Shockarna).

On page 20, second line, substitute "this will be" for "this is" (we are dealing with an intention on the part of the Irish Government rather than a decision).

At the bottom of page 22, it is not literally correct that Article 1 "echoes the provision of Section 1 of the Northern Ireland Constitution Act" . It would be better to say: "The effect of Article 1 is to confirm the provision in Section 1 of the Northern Ireland Constitution Act" .

/Sir Geoffrey



Sir Geoffrey Howe notes that the final paragraph on page 16 of the draft enclosed with Christopher Mallaby's minute to you of 15 November has disappeared from the later version. This seems a pity, since it sets the whole Agreement in a wider perspective. Sir Geoffrey thinks that something on those lines would be worth including.

Sir Geoffrey Howe also welcomes the inclusion on page 30 of the tribute to Dr FitzGerald. This will be particularly well received in Dublin in the light of the care Dr FitzGerald has taken in the Dail debate to present the agreement along the lines agreed between us and to avoid any attempt at over-selling it to his nationalist constituency. You may like to consider adding the words "great tenacity and" at the end of the second line on page 30.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Jim Daniell (NIO).

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

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10 Downing Street

PS One other thought.

On p. 7 we would favour the omission of the clause "even though.... being fulfilled."