

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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We of course recognise the Republic's proper interest in the affairs of Northern Ireland. Over the years we have tried to keep Dublin in touch with our thinking and to ensure that we know the mind of the Irish Government. The terms of the communiqués quoted reflect this. But they do not affect the fact which we have always made clear that the constitutional future of Northern Ireland is a matter for the people of the Province and the Parliament in Westminster. It follows that, as Mr Hurd reminded the Irish Ambassador on 26 July, we cannot accept that we have a commitment to consult the Republic on the constitutional future of the Province. This position was made quite clear in the course of the discussions leading up to the conclusion of the Joint Memorandum on 20 January 1982.

British Embassy

Dublin

20 August 1982