

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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19 October 1984

*MS*  
*22/11*

Dear Assistant Secretary

Rumour in London this week

It has been apparent for some time that speculation, among interested M.P.'s and the important journalists, has been flowing and elbing for some time with a just-discernible pattern.

Three weeks ago the rumour, in summary, was that the Prime Minister would not do anything major on Northern Ireland as the difficulties were too great and the risks (fáilure, the possible collapse of the present Irish Government, etc.) too great.

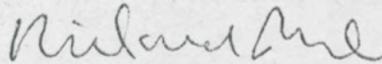
I would judge from conversations with observers that there is now a change in the rumour: people are saying that the Prime Minister might indeed do something serious on Ireland and there is much heated speculation as to what might be the substance of a major move in co-ordination with Dublin. There is talk, flying in all directions, of joint security arrangements (with many variants of this), joint court systems, parliamentary tiers, compulsory power-sharing executives and so on.

Casual questioning of those who are observing and speculating brings to their lips the same source, Bernard Ingham, the Government Press Secretary.

The direction rumour takes, coming from such a source, is of interest as it must be intended to send ripples through the media to readers and viewers everywhere.

I will report further if the pattern continues and another pattern emerges.

Yours sincerely



Richard Ryan  
Counsellor.