



CONFIDENTIAL

10 Downing Street
Whitehall

October 31, 1968

Dear Prime Minister.

I want you to know how concerned I was on reading in this morning's press what the Prime Minister of the Irish Republic is reported to have said to the Press following his meeting with me yesterday afternoon.

At that meeting Mr. Lynch stated his views about the causes of the recent disturbances in Northern Ireland. He referred to such matters as local government franchise, the arrangements for local government elections and the allocation of public authority housing. He said that, in his view, the problems arose basically out of the partition of Ireland.

I replied to Mr. Lynch by reminding him that the internal affairs of Northern Ireland fall within the jurisdiction of the Northern Ireland Parliament. On partition I repeated what I have said before that

this is a matter for Irish people on both sides of the border. I reminded him of the pledge I gave in the House of Commons on May 6, 1965 repeating that of Mr. Attlee, and I referred him to the exchanges which took place yesterday afternoon during the course of my speech on the Address.

I wanted you to have this explanation of what took place in my discussion with Mr. Lynch straight away. I have received today your letter about our meeting on Monday and I look forward to having this opportunity for discussions with you and your colleagues.

*Yours sincerely,
Harold Wilson*

The Rt. Hon. Terence O'Neill, D.L., M.V.