

E. R.

ALIC  
21/82

① Mr. Carvill  
② Mr. Boys Smith

cc. Mr Carvill  
Mr Boys Smith

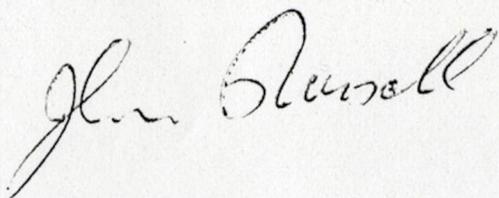
Mr D J R Hill  
SIL Division

IRISH MINISTERIAL VISITS

Thank you for your minute of 6 December and enclosure. I do not know of any other visits by Irish Ministers.

I have two small observations on the draft letter to Patrick Eyers. In the first paragraph I wonder if it is necessary to record "irritation". I should have thought that "concern" was correct and sufficient, but I do not have any strong views on the point.

In the penultimate paragraph we ask for notice of private visits. I know too little of international protocol to be sure that we are justified in asking for such notice. If we are however, I suggest that this part of our request requires extra tact, as many Irish Ministers, in private life, will have been accustomed to visiting Northern Ireland. They might regard it as an unreasonable intrusion by the UK if they are now asked to inform us of private visits simply because they are members of the Irish Government. Security of course is an overriding reason for us needing to know about all visits by members of the Irish Government to Northern Ireland.



J F RUSSELL  
Central Secretariat

8 December 1983

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