

RBS. 215/9.

12/1

cc. Mr Pearson
26.9.86

Miss Pease



cc	PS/SofS (L&B)	M
	PS/Mr Needham (L&B)	M
	PS/PUS(B)	M
	PS/Mr Bloomfield	M
	Mr Barry	M
	Dr Quigley	M
	Mr Chesterton	
	Mr Elliott	M
	Mr Spence	M
	Mr Coulson	
	Miss Elliott	
	Mr Wood	

IRISH LANGUAGE - NEWSLETTER LEAKS

This is to confirm that, having discussed with Mr Bloomfield the publication in to-day's "Newsletter" of classified Ministerial and official correspondence, PUS asked you to institute an investigation into the circumstances surrounding these leaks in consultation with Security Branch. You agreed to consider at what stage PUS should inform Sir Robert Armstrong of the leaks and whether an external investigator should be involved.

2. In a subsequent telephone conversation with Mr Gilliland, PUS agreed that the following line should be taken in response to press inquiries:

- i. the leaked papers revealed nothing surprising - the June IC communique and the Secretary of State's remarks in the subsequent press conference had gone into some detail in explaining the discussions with the Irish and the action proposed. Anyone who had read those public statements would expect the Government to be taking the sort of action revealed in the leaked papers;
- ii. the proposals were, in any case, of a limited nature - the Government had always made it clear that there was no proposal to introduce a bi-lingual society; and
- iii. nevertheless a serious view was taken of the publication of classified Ministerial correspondence and investigations were in hand to determine the source of the leaks.

Jonathan Stephens

JONATHAN STEPHENS

PC/PUS 25 September 1986

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