



Mr Spence

NORTHERN IRELAND Information Service

23 June 1986

DISSOLUTION OF NI ASSEMBLY

The Northern Ireland Assembly has now been dissolved.

At a Privy Council meeting this afternoon, Her Majesty The Queen made the Northern Ireland (Dissolution) Order 1986. This had been approved in the House of Commons and the House of Lords on June 19. The Dissolution Order has immediate effect. The Secretary of State Rt Hon Tom King MP attended this afternoon's meeting of the Privy Council. The Speaker of the Assembly, Mr James Kilfedder MP, was informed in writing of the dissolution.

Mr King said afterwards that the early dissolution of the Assembly was the direct consequence of the failure and then the refusal of its members to carry out the functions for which it had been established. On this basis it was clearly not possible for it to continue, but he hoped it would be possible for early discussions to start on ways in which a new and more effective Assembly could be created. It was for this reason that the step that had been taken only dissolved the present Assembly, which in any case terminated in October, and that it ensured that the powers were kept to make possible the creation of a new Assembly at the earliest practicable date.

"What we now need to do is not look back at an Assembly that has long ceased to discharge its main responsibilities, but to look forward to a new Assembly that can involve all those who support constitutional politics, and can make a really worthwhile contribution to government and administration of Northern Ireland," he said.