

*copy to Mr Gow.*

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

*A*



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
GREAT GEORGE STREET,  
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

*My draft letter  
should reply*

Clive Whitmore Esq  
10 Downing Street  
London, SW1

12 July 1982

*Dear Clive*

Thank you for your letter to Stephen Boys Smith of 5 July about the documents which Mr Molyneaux sent to Ian Gow.

My Secretary of State has not finally decided whether to recommend the establishment of some form of independent enquiry into the incident. In addition to reports in national newspapers there have been articles in the Irish Times and the Belfast Telegraph throwing doubt on the credibility of Mr Sloan's notes and also linking him with the Official Unionist Party. It is however important to take up Mr Molyneaux's statement in his letter to Mr Gow that Mr Sloan is prepared to make himself available to verify the information contained in the notes.

Mr Prior would be grateful if, in the first instance, the Prime Minister would agree that Sir Robert Armstrong, as Joint Head of the Civil Service, should arrange for Mr Sloan to be seen. We understand that if the Prime Minister agrees, Sir Robert would propose to invite Mr Denis Payne to conduct the interview.

My Secretary of State is of course willing to write to Mr Molyneaux with this proposal, but since he sent the notes to Ian Gow it might be thought better that he should reply.

.... I therefore enclose a draft letter from Mr Gow to Mr Molyneaux.

*Yours sincerely  
Julie Hopkins*

M W HOPKINS

DRAFT LETTER

FILE NUMBER.....

ADDRESSEE'S REFERENCE.....

<p>To <i>S.C.</i></p> <p>James Molyneaux Esq, MP House of Commons London SW1</p> <p>(Full Postal Address)</p>	<p>Enclosures</p>	<p>Copies to be sent to</p> <p>(Full Address, if Necessary)</p>
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LETTER DRAFTED FOR SIGNATURE BY Mr Ian Gow  
(Name of Signatory)

Thank you for your letter of 29 June enclosing notes which Mr Sloan made following discussions he had with Mr Clive Abbott of the Northern Ireland Office.

You said in your letter that Mr Sloan was prepared to make himself available to verify the information contained in his notes. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has suggested to the Prime Minister that she should ask the Head of the Civil Service to arrange for Mr Sloan to be seen for this purpose and she has agreed.

~~Would you therefore kindly let me know how we can best get in touch with Mr Sloan to make the arrangements.~~

*We are arranging to get into touch with Mr Sloan at the address and you kindly find it.*

*MS*

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

B



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
GREAT GEORGE STREET,  
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

Clive Whitmore Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON  
SW1

12 July 1982

Dear Clive,

I wrote to you this afternoon about the documents which Mr Molyneux sent to Ian Gow about discussions with Mr Clive Abbott of this Department.

Mr Enoch Powell has now put down a Parliamentary Question for Written Answer tomorrow.

.... I enclose a copy of the Question and the proposed answer (which has not yet been seen by my Secretary of State).

I would be grateful if you would let me know whether Mr Gow will have written to Mr Molyneux in time for the draft answer to be correct and if so whether you are content with what it says.

Yours sincerely  
Mike Hopkins

M W HOPKINS

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - FOR WRITTEN ANSWER ON TUESDAY 13 JULY 1982

Mr J Enoch Powell (South Down): To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland further to his statement on 1 July, Official Report, column 1025, if he has completed his consideration of the letter of the honourable Member for Antrim South on the conduct of Mr Clive Abbott; and if he will make a statement.

The letter sent to No 10 Downing Street by the honourable Member for Antrim South stated that the author of the notes was prepared to make himself available to verify their contents.

My Rt Hon Friend the Prime Minister has agreed to my request that the Head of the Civil Service should arrange for the author to be seen for this purpose.

I await the outcome.

