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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Thank you for your minute A08996 of 12 July 1982 about Mr Molyneaux's letter of 29 June about the Sloan/Abbott exchanges.

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute, and she agrees that we should proceed as you propose.

I attach copies of my reply to Mr Hopkins's two letters of 12 July and of Mr Gow's answer to Mr Molyneaux's letter of 29 June.

JAW.

13 July 1982

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

13 July 1982

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your two letters of 12 July 1982 about the documents which Mr James Molyneaux sent to Ian Gow about Mr Sloan's discussions with Mr Clive Abbott.

I have shown both your letters to the Prime Minister, and as I told you on the telephone this morning, she is content that we should proceed as your Secretary of State proposes. The way is accordingly clear for Mr Prior to answer Mr Enoch Powell's Written Question for today in the terms of the draft attached to your letter.

Ian Gow has now written to Mr Molyneaux, and I attach a copy of his letter. This differs from the draft you provided only in the last paragraph which has been amended to take account of the fact that Mr Molyneaux has already told us that Mr Sloan's address is 60 Myrtlefield Park, Belfast 9.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Whinnery.

M W Hopkins Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.

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10 DOWNING STREET

13th July 1982

Dear Jim,

Thank you for your letter of 29th 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.

We are arranging to get into touch with Mr Sloan at the address which you kindly provided.

IAI GOW

James Molyneaux Esq JP MP