



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff

15 January 1998

Dear Margaret,

NORTHERN IRELAND REFERENDUM

I discussed this with Mo today. We need to start putting plans in hand.

It is likely that the decision will be that, as in Scotland and Wales, the Government can fund and organise a campaign encouraging people to vote but cannot fund and organise a 'yes' campaign. We therefore need to look at how we can help people in Northern Ireland set up a professional campaign which will organise venues for British politicians to go to Northern Ireland and speak in favour of a yes vote, including the Prime Minister.

Can you bring together a group of people that Mo can introduce to the relevant people in Northern Ireland? They might include people like Leighton Andrews from Wales and any businessmen in Scotland and Wales who participated in the yes campaign and are familiar with how to set one up.

Can you and the NIO keep us informed of the progress you make.

I am copying this letter to John Holmes, Sally Morgan, Pat McFadden and Nigel Warner (NIO).

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JONATHAN POWELL

Ms Margaret McDonagh

not at all - II



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

12 January 1998

From the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff

John Hume

NORTHERN IRELAND REFERENDUM

I discussed this with Mr. today. We need to start putting plans in hand.

It is likely that the decision will be that, as in Scotland and Wales, the Government can fund and organise a campaign encouraging people to vote but cannot fund and organise a 'yes' campaign. We therefore need to look at how we can help people in Northern Ireland set up a professional campaign which will organise voters for British politicians to go to Northern Ireland and speak in favour of a yes vote, including the Prime Minister.

Can you bring together a group of people that Mr. can introduce to the relevant people in Northern Ireland? They might include people like Leighton Andrews from Wales and any businessmen in Scotland and Wales who participated in the yes campaign and are familiar with how to set one up.

Can you and the NIO keep us informed of the progress you make.

I am copying this letter to John Holmes, Sally Morgan, Pat McFadden and Nigel Warner (NIO).

John Hume

JONATHAN POWELL

Ms Margaret McDonald