It is I think a happy thing in our political system that personal relationships need not be affected by differences of political outlook.

Now that the turn of the political wheel is severing our official contacts I would not like this moment to pass without expressing my thanks to you for the always friendly basis on which we have worked over the past difficult year.

I have always had from you yourself, from Victor Stonham, and Shirley Williams, and from your able and dedicated officials at the Home Office, the utmost courtesy and consideration.

I know that in all you have done in relation to Northern Ireland you have been guided by the same motives as we have - to set this Province on a happier and more prosperous course. Although there will no doubt be further difficulties to face I continue to believe that this end can be achieved.

I hope we may continue to meet from time to time, if only to talk about cattle as one farmer to another.

The Rt. Hon. James Callaghan, M.P., House of Commons, Westminster, LONDON.