

SECRET AND PERSONAL
FROM: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

(29)



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- Mr Thomas
- Mr Devereil
- Mr Cooke
- Mr Rickard
- Mr May
- Mr Beeton

Roderic Lyne Esq CMG
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street

17 November 1993

Dear Roderic,

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH ARCHBISHOP EAMES

The Prime Minister is to meet Archbishop Eames tomorrow. My Secretary of State will also be present at the meeting.

Objectives

Following his meeting with my Secretary of State at Hillsborough on 13 November, Archbishop Eames undertook to talk to the Taoiseach again about the latest draft of the Joint Declaration and then to report back to us. He also indicated at that meeting that he would be happy to sound out Mr Molyneaux if and when we considered the time right. The principal purpose of the Prime Minister's meeting, therefore, will be to listen to Archbishop Eames' report of his further conversation with the Taoiseach and to hear his assessment of the likely prospects for the Joint Declaration Initiative.

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Fresh text

As I reported in my minute earlier today, the Archbishop telephoned me with some advance information. He had secured the Taoiseach's agreement to some amendments to JD13 and would bring a revised text (JD14) with him tomorrow. Analysis of these amendments suggests there has been no really significant shift by the Taoiseach, and that Dr Eames has not fully grasped the significance of an expression of the constitutional guarantee.

Archbishop's contact with Mr Molyneaux

The Prime Minister will want to probe the extent of Dr Eames' contacts with Mr Molyneaux. Last Saturday the Archbishop told Sir Patrick that he had deliberately distanced himself from Mr Molyneaux and not discussed the text with anyone else. But the Taoiseach seems to believe, as he said in his letter of 15 November to the Prime Minister, that the Archbishop (and John Alderdice) had brought messages from Molyneaux saying that while Molyneaux could not publicly support the JDI he would not oppose it either. Dr Eames is also aware that we showed Mr Molyneaux a copy of the previous version (JD12) and he may have revealed that to the Taoiseach.

UK draft

As far as future prospects are concerned the Prime Minister may wish to show the draft text of a Joint Statement to be made at the Dublin Summit (a revised version incorporating changes agreed at today's meeting will follow in the morning) seeking his judgement on whether it might represent a way forward more likely to secure the support, or at least acceptance, of the Protestant community in Northern Ireland.

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Future contacts

The further active engagement of the Archbishop is unlikely to add much value to the initiative, and the Prime Minister might wish to thank him for his engagement in the initiative so far and leave him parked, still onside but inactive.

I attach some points to make for the Prime Minister. Copies of this letter go to John Sawers and Melanie Leech.

Yours,

Jonathan

J A STEPHENS

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POINTS TO MAKE

- Very grateful for your efforts on this matter, and for your advance warning that you would have a new text today. Would like to have your assessment of that text and of the Taoiseach's position.
- You kindly offered to speak to Mr Molyneaux if we judged the time was right. May we clarify - have you discussed this with Mr Molyneaux? Have you said anything to the Taoiseach about Molyneaux's reactions to the Declaration? [Patrick Mayhew mentioned to you that we had shown Mr Molyneaux an earlier draft - did you mention that to the Taoiseach?]
- We have been considering other approaches to this and would like to show you a version we have drafted. It has not been shown to the Irish but, if they agreed, would be delivered following my meeting with the Taoiseach in Dublin in early December. [Show draft Dublin Statement - not for retention] Do you agree that this would be more acceptable to the Protestant community in Northern Ireland?
- I must give these matters further consideration. Very grateful for your help. For the moment I think there is nothing more I can ask you to do, but I will, of course, keep you in touch with further developments.