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SECRET AND PERSONAL

FROM: PS/SECRETARY OF STATE
4 NOVEMBER 1993

cc PS/SofS (Mr Stephens) (L) [2]
Michael Ancram (via Mr Stephens) [3]
PS/PUS (L) [4]
Mr Thomas [5]
Mr Deverell* [6]
Mr Rickard* [7]
Mr Beeton [8]
Mr May* [9]

MR COOKE [1]

JOINT DECLARATION: CONTACTS WITH THE IRISH GOVERNMENT

Mr Spring asked to speak to the Secretary of State this morning. The Secretary of State rang him from No 10 before Cabinet and I attach the Secretary of State's account of the conversation.

2. Subsequently Mr Reynolds' office rang No 10 with a message for the Prime Minister. No 10 may separately be circulating this, but it was to the effect that the situation in Northern Ireland was very grave; there might be a chance for a mutual ceasefire; the Taoiseach had shown "the text" to some "churchmen" who approved of it; they wanted to come and see the Prime Minister; urgency was essential.

3. I understood the Prime Minister to decide that no response to this message should be given today but that if Sir Robin Butler were to be travelling to Dublin tomorrow, he could offer a response then. The Prime Minister said that he was very concerned at the reference to "churchmen" - he knew the text was to be shown to Archbishop Eames, but who else had the Taoiseach been showing it to?

(SIGNED)

JONATHAN STEPHENS
PRIVATE SECRETARY

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