

SECRET AND PERSONAL

Roderic Lyne Esq CMG
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

13 December 1993

Dear Roderic

JOINT DECLARATION - HANDLING PLAN

I attach a copy of the latest version of our handling plan for the time leading up to the making of the Joint Declaration by the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach and the period shortly afterwards.

I also attach an early version of much of the briefing material we plan to use:

- a draft opening statement and question and answer briefing for the Prime Minister at the joint press conference. (My Secretary of State has agreed that both these should be shown to the Irish on an ad referendum basis so as to co-ordinate lines);
- briefing lines reflecting the key points for us to get across, including concessions by the Irish and what the JD does not do, contrary to recent press stories;

an annotated version of the Joint Declaration, with marginal comments explaining the significance and origin of key elements

SECRET AND PERSONAL

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- a draft letter for you to send to Cabinet members, when appropriate, informing them of the Joint Declaration and accompanying briefing lines.

All this material is subject to revision in the light of latest developments. But any comments at this stage would be welcome.

A copy goes to Gus O'Donnell, and to John Sawers and Melanie Leech.

SIGNED

JONATHAN STEPHENS
Private Secretary

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