

CONFIDENTIAL

From: ROD LYNE  
Date: 15 December 1993

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH THE TAOISEACH

The Taoiseach will be accompanied by the Tanaiste and by Mrs. Geoghegan-Quinn. Eleven Irish officials are said to be coming. You will have Sir Patrick Mayhew and officials.

You and the Taoiseach may wish to spend a few minutes in entirely private conversation.

Further to that, NIO and FCO recommend that we discuss the following subjects:

- i. PIRA
  - Prospects for a cessation of violence.
  - Indications of the current mood in PIRA.
  - Likelihood of an early political response by Gerry Adams to the Joint Declaration? Might he set out his own, separate conditions for a cessation of violence?
  - Do we expect a delay before PIRA respond, while they consult internally?
  - Risk of a split in PIRA? How would we respond to this?

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ii. Presentation of Joint Declaration

- Doorstep and press conference: run through the arrangements. Opening statements will presumably take the first 10-12 minutes of the press conference. Then take questions for 20-30 minutes?
- Parliamentary statements: I understand that you will be making a statement in the Dail at 4.30 this afternoon. [Not for use: the Taoiseach's office asked if it was possible for us to delay our statement in order to coincide with theirs. We explained that you would have to make your statement at 3.30.]
- We shall of course be putting emphasis on points of particular importance to our own parliamentary audiences. That said, we shall both want to minimise the risk of appearing to interpret the Joint Declaration in conflicting ways.
- I shall obviously need to reassure the unionists that we have done nothing to substantiate the DUP charges of "betrayal". But I shall not go beyond the terms of the joint statement and of our other agreed positions, such as the Brussels statement of 29 October.
- Equally, I shall do all I can to encourage the nationalist end of the spectrum to give a positive response.

- Very helpful if you could continue to allay the fears of the unionists, as you have done in your statements and broadcasts. They are bound to be extremely nervous, especially about the references to "united Ireland" and about the role of the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation.
  
- Handling of John Hume?
  
- Points of particular difficulty on which we shall both be questioned?
  - Self-determination.
  - Timescale for Irish unity? Does the statement represent a fair balance between the unionist and nationalist positions?
  - Joint authority?
  - Risk that Sinn Fein will immediately "parachute" into the political arena.
  - Amnesty?
  - Articles 2 and 3?

iii. **The Talks Process**

- Essential that we should accompany the Joint Declaration with serious and determined efforts to sustain or increase momentum in the Talks process. Must demonstrate this to the moderate unionists. Will help to keep them on board.
  
- We shall need your cooperation in this. Hope you will be able to make some positive reference at the press conference.

- Helpful if you could soon send us your long-awaited paper on constitutional issues. Will not [this time, we hope!] be a public document. But the unionists will be watching like hawks to see whether you are participating actively, or conversely showing little interest.
- Have always regarded the Joint Declaration and the Talks process as complementary exercise. If we can sustain an active political dialogue on Northern Ireland's future, we shall avoid a political vacuum and benefit from an existing framework in which Sinn Fein might, in due course, participate.
- Sir Patrick Mayhew may wish to add a few words on the next steps in the process.

iv. **THORP**

[The THORP decision will not be welcome to the Irish. They will have heard of the impending announcement through the media. It would be a courtesy to mention this to the Taoiseach:]

- John Gummer will be announcing this afternoon that he has decided to grant the necessary authorizations for discharges from THORP. That means the THORP reprocessing plant can go ahead.
- A number of new conditions are being imposed to ensure that discharges from the site are minimised (eg specific limit on uranium discharges).

PRIME MINISTER/MR REYNOLDS - JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE LONDON - 13 DECEMBER 1993

Handwritten initials and a red stamp, possibly "PUC" or "PUS".

FROM MEMO TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN  
- Decision reached after long consultation process and on basis of strict legal criteria.

TRANSCRIPT OF JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE  
GIVEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE IRISH PRIME MINISTER  
AND THE IRISH PRIME MINISTER  
IN LONDON  
- Department of Environment will be sending your Ambassador a copy of the statement as soon as possible this afternoon.

ON WEDNESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 1993

PRIME MINISTER:

**ROD LYNE**

foreign\meeting.dca

...with a brief opening statement, we will then take a  
...there will not be too many questions for the press  
...Gus just gave, we both have to prepare and subsequently make  
statements in Parliament this afternoon.

About two years ago the Taoiseach and I met in Downing Street and  
agreed on that occasion that we would work together towards a  
lasting political settlement in Northern Ireland. Since then we  
have both got and spoken on many occasions. Today was our fourth  
meeting in the last six weeks and our third meeting in the last  
twelve days. The results of this work are in the Downing Street  
declaration which we have just issued and which I hope you all will  
have a copy of.

A month ago I told the Parliament that Northern Ireland would  
remain at the head of the government's priorities. When I said  
that I meant it literally. The Taoiseach and I have pursued an  
idea which was obvious, simple and yet extremely difficult to