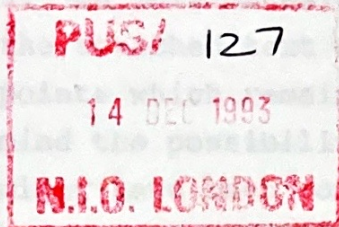


SECRET AND PERSONAL

FROM

Q J THOMAS, DUS(L)
13 December 1993
DUSL/MR/44011

PS/MICHAEL ANCRAM(L)-[1]*



cc PS/Secretary of State(L&B)-[2&3]
PS/PUS(L&B)-[4&5]
PS/Mr Fell-[6]
Mr Legge-[7]
Mr Bell-[8]
Mr Deverell-[9]
Mr Williams-[10]
Mr Brooker-[11]
Mr Cooke-[12]
Mr Maccabe-[13]
Mr Rickard-[14]
Mr Beeton-[15]
HMA Dublin-[16]
Mr Archer-[17]
Melanie Leech*,
PS/Sir R Butler-[18]
Roderic Lyne*,
PS/Prime Minister-[19]
Mr Sawers,
PS/Mr Hurd-[20]
File/Float copy-[21 copies]
* Copy of Irish Times article

JOINT DECLARATION INITIATIVE

As you know the Joint Declaration remains in discussion between the two Governments.

2. I believe the attached text represents where we stand. (At the time of writing I have not seen Sir Robin Butler's note of his most recent conversation with Dermot Nally.)

3. Michael Ancram hopes to see Mr Molyneaux this evening, and if need be I understand the Prime Minister is also ready to do so.

4. You asked for an indication of the main improvements to the

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text since Mr Molyneaux last saw it. I believe the last text Mr Molyneaux saw was JD.15 though I believe Michael Ancram did not allow him to retain it. I will give you separately a copy of JD.15C marked up accordingly; and a clear copy of JD.15 (which was, I think, what Mr Molyneaux was shown last Thursday).

5. On this occasion too it may be wrong to give Mr Molyneaux the attached text which would enable him too exactly to see the points which remain at issue with the Irish side. (I have in mind the possibility that at least some of the leaks of which we might have been complaining could be sourced to Mr Molyneaux himself. The article in last Friday's Irish Times - copy attached for you, Mr Lyne and Ms Leech - by his former UUP colleague Mr Frank Millar, which, inter alia, makes a suggestion that the Convention might be akin to the New Ireland Forum, is a case in point.)

[SIGNED]

Q J THOMAS
13 December 1993
OAB 6447

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