

SECRET

DRAFT MINUTE FROM PS/SOS

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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 and fundamental assumption is that the success of the JD's reception in GB, and internationally will depend critically on getting it right in Northern Ireland.

Additional work based on this plan, for example, the drawing up of a full list of those opinion formers and community leaders in Northern Ireland who will be briefed, is under way. You should, however, note that it envisages, subject to timings, Parliamentary imperatives etc, my Secretary of State's leaving for Northern Ireland as soon as possible after the JD (and the Parliamentary Statement, should that now also be on Wednesday as now seems likely) is made. He judges that he could most usefully - and wholly defensibly - be in, and seen to be in Northern Ireland to ensure the message is properly put across, and Unionist opinion reassured at the earliest possible moment.

I believe that Andy Wood and his colleagues in Information Services will be keeping in close touch with Gus McDonald on arrangements for the media.

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SECRET AND PERSONAL

D minus

Declaration

D plus

GB

After Brussels

- PM to minute Cabinet
- PM to speak to President Clinton
- Cabinet Secretary to brief Palace
- Arrangements for Summit/Press Conference (FCO No 10)

24 hours before JD

- PM to brief Leader of Opposition and Mr Ashdown
- Media told of QE2 Press Conference (No 10)

London Summit

Taoiseach and PM meet and formally agree JD

Public Statement by PM (+ For.Sec, SOSNI & ?) and Taoiseach at QE2, followed by Q&A session

- Media to be arranged (No 10, NIO)
- Guidance tel to posts (FCO)

Later same day

PM makes **Statement in House** (SOSNI in Chamber) [Advance text to Opposition Spokespeople in Commons and Lords, and NI Party Leaders (No 10/NIO)]

Meeting for Conservative backbenchers (For.Sec?)

NI

Immediately after Brussels

- NIO Briefing, for Chief Constable, GOC (PUSNIO)

24 hours before JD

- Molyneaux, Hume, Alderdice, Kilfedder briefed with copies of JD (SOSNI)
- NIO Ministerial team briefed with copies of JD (SOSNI and PUSNIO)
- Senior NIO/NICS staff briefed (PUSNIO/HNICS)

Briefings for opinion formers/community leaders (NIO - list to be prepared by Cent Sec/PAB)

- Media to be arranged (NIO) [NIO Minister - Michael Ancram available in Belfast]

Same day - evening

SOSNI in Belfast
Follow up briefings continue (NIO)

[Provisionals reaction]

NIO to consider longer term follow up eg Talks Process, brief Sir Ninian etc

Brussels Summit

Joint Declaration text agreed

[Irish Government will seek to ascertain reaction in wider national community and gauge prospects for cessation of violence.]

- British and Irish officials co-ordinate Lines to Take and Q&A material (NIO)
- Briefing for HMA Washington (FCO)

Briefings on Capitol Hill (HMA Washington)

Taoiseach makes Statement in Dail

[? Irish Government announce Convention]

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