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NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
475 56/93
21 DEC 1993
SIL DIVISION

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

17 December 1993

cc PS/SofS (LTB)
PS/PUS (LTB)
PS/Mr Fell
Mr Thomas
Mr Bell
Mr Williams
Mr Brooker
From the Private Secretary
Mr Daniell
Mr Maccabe
Jon Jonathan

SELECT COMMITTEE ON NORTHERN IRELAND

When I returned from the House of Commons on the afternoon of 16 December, I heard from the Foreign Office that the Taoiseach was expressing concern about the planned announcement of the Select Committee on Northern Ireland. I have since seen Dublin telegram No. 461.

By the time the news reached me, the announcement had been made. However, I should report that I immediately telephoned Martin Mansergh. I reminded him that the Prime Minister had warned the Taoiseach, and I had warned him, in Brussels, that an announcement on a Select Committee was likely to come out soon. We had explained that the Government would need to give its response to the report of the Select Committee on Procedure. Mansergh was pretty relaxed. He recalled the earlier notification. He did not suggest that the Select Committee announcement would have a gravely damaging effect. He saw it as analogous to the further explanation of the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation which the Taoiseach would have given in the Dail on 17 December.

I asked Mansergh to ensure that the Taoiseach knew that the Prime Minister had not received his message until after the announcement had been made.

I am copying this letter by fax to David Blatherwick in Dublin, to John Sawers (ECo), and to Melanie Leach (Cabinet Office).

Yours own,
RODERIC LYNE

Jonathan Stephens Esq
Northern Ireland Office

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