



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
23 DEC 1993  
348/54/93  
SIL DIVISION

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

20 December 1993

PS SOS L, B.  
PS / Michel Ancram L.  
PS / PUS (L, B)  
PS / Mr Fell  
Mr Thomas  
Mr Bell  
Mr Williams  
Mr Wood (L, B)

*Dear Sir,*

You delivered letters to me on 10 December in Brussels, where I was meeting the Irish Prime Minister, and on 15 December at Downing Street, during the meeting at which Albert Reynolds and I agreed on the Joint Declaration.

Mr Daniel  
Mr Macabe  
Mr Deaton  
Mr Booker.

You took issue with Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish Constitution. So do I. This is but one of many good reasons why we should hold discussions with the Irish Government.

Your letter of 15 December was written and publicised before Mr Reynolds and I had issued the Joint Declaration. Unimpeded by facts, you chose to criticise the Declaration in extreme terms before you had even had a chance to read it.

It would be helpful if you could read the Declaration now. If you do so, you will find that your claims are wholly unjustified. To take but one example from your letter, it is entirely untrue that I have given the Irish Government "joint jurisdiction ... over part of Her Majesty's dominions". You will find nothing in the Joint Declaration to substantiate your statement.

