

CONFIDENTIAL

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FROM: CLIVE BARBOUR
AI SECRETARIAT
7 January 1994

DESK IMMEDIATE

- cc PS/Michael Ancram (B&L) B
- PS/PUS (B&L) B
- PS/Mr Fell B
- Mr Thomas B
- Mr Williams B
- Mr Bell B
- Mr Deverell B
- Mr Watkins B
- Mr Brooker B
- Mr Daniell B
- Mr Maccabe B
- Mr Rickard B
- Mr Rodell B
- Mr Caine B
- HMA Dublin B
- Mr Archer RID B

The Rt Hon Sir Patrick Mayhew QC MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Stormont Castle
Belfast BT4 3JY

Dear Patrick,

Thank you for your letter of 3 January and New Year greetings. I wish you and all your team every success and success in 1994, and look forward to continuing our contacts.

I agree completely with you that there can be no continuation of the Government ceding the initiative to the Provisional Government. However, for the present I think the onus is on that group to respond to the initiative taken by our Government. Our immediate focus must be to encourage a positive response. For that reason I feel we should be sensitive, both in our timing and presentation, in our discussion of future political developments. I which might imply we were already jumping to negative conclusions about the Sinn Féin response to the Declaration, without giving some reasonable space for a process of discussion, which we both accept may require some time.

PS/Secretary of State (B & L) - B

LETTER FROM THE TANAISTE

I will reflect very carefully on the points your letter and look forward to a full discussion of them at our Conference later in the year. A response to the Secretary of State's letter of 5 January from the Tánaiste has now been received through the Secretariat and the text is attached.

Yours sincerely,

2. The original will be forwarded to Private Office in due course.

Signed

Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs

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AI SECRETARIAT
7 JANUARY 1994

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TEXT OF THE LETTER FROM THE TANAISTE

6 January 1994

The Rt Hon Sir Patrick Mayhew QC MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Stormont Castle
Belfast BT4 3ST

Dear Patrick,

Thank you for your letter of 5 January and very kind New Year greetings. I wish you and all your team every happiness and success in 1994, and look forward to continuing our very close contacts.

I agree completely with you that there can be no question of the Government ceding the initiative to the Provisional movement. However, for the present I think the onus is very much on that group to respond to the initiative taken by our two Governments. Our immediate focus must be to encourage a positive response. For that reason I feel we should be sensitive, both in terms of timing and presentation, in our discussion of future political developments. I would be anxious to avoid anything which might imply we were already jumping to negative conclusions about the Sinn Fein response to the Declaration, without giving some reasonable space for a process of reflection and consultation, which we both accept may require some time.

I will reflect very carefully on the points your letter and look forward to a full discussion of them at our Conference later this month.

With warmest good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

DICK SPRING TD

Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs

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6 JANUARY 1994
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RB/515/22563