

CONFIDENTIAL

F FROM: PS/MICHAEL ANCRAM
11 NOVEMBER 1993

F: PD: WA

cc PS/Michael Ancram (DENI, B&L) - B
PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Mr Fell - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Brooker - B
Mr Cooke - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Quinn - B
Mr Beeton, SIL - B
Ms Lodge, SIL - B
Mr Kyle - B
Mr Archer, RID - B
HMA Dublin - B
Mr Hallett, SIL - B
Mr Caine - B

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

AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES 2 AND 3 OF THE IRISH CONSTITUTION

Michael Ancram has seen Ms Lodge's submission of 9 November and has observed that this is a most interesting analysis which would give comfort to Dr Paisley who is equally sceptical about Irish intentions in relation to Articles 2 & 3.

2. The practical question is whether the Irish want to achieve a settlement by consent as expressed by Mr Spring. If so, they must know that an addition to or a fudge of Articles 2 & 3 will not wash and would kill all prospect for consent. If they are sincere in seeking a settlement and/or securing peace they must know that they will have to abandon the territorial claim as such. The Minister fears that clever solutions like the one at Annex F would create enormous suspicion and would likely be fatal to any settlement.

3. The broader question is how much self-confidence the Irish have that if - à la Hume - co-existence follows a settlement for a generation or so unity will occur naturally. If they do not believe that then we should begin to worry about their long-term intentions towards Northern Ireland anyway.

SIGNED

KEITH JAGELMAN
PS/Michael Ancram
OAB Extn 6488
11 November 1993

CONFIDENTIAL

ANCRAM/88