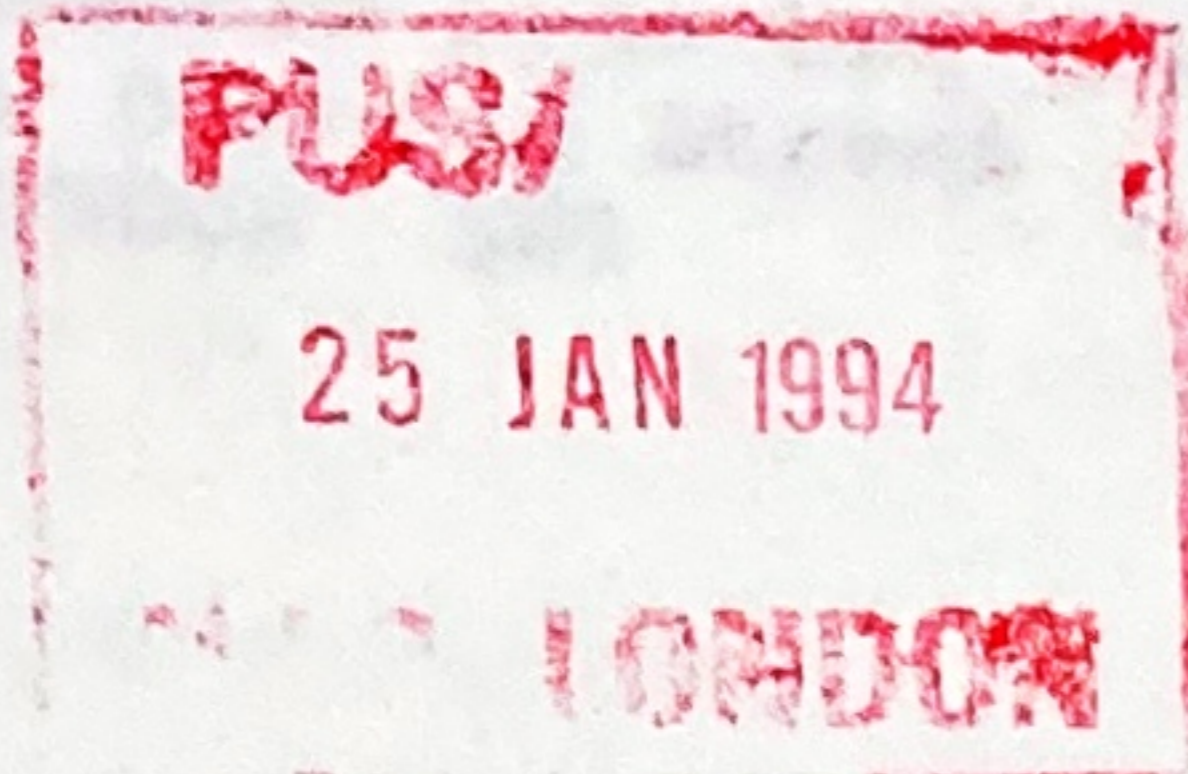


F J.D.

FROM: MARIE REBELLO
25 January 1994
ID/44743

DESK IMMEDIATE
PS/SECRETARY OF STATE(L&B)

cc PS/Michael Ancram(L&B)
PS/PUS(L&B)
PS/Mr Fell
Mr Bell
Mr Wood(L&B)
Mr Daniell
Mr Brearley
(Mr Thomas(L))



CLARIFICATION - LINES TO TAKE

Below is a revised version from Mr Thomas.

Clarification

- The Declaration is a balanced statement of constitutional principles and political realities which safeguard the vial interests of both sides of the community in Northern Ireland. It reflects the beliefs of both Governments, but compromises the principles of neither.
- If clarification means pointing to what the Declaration says, or what the Government has already said, then we have been doing that all along.
- But if clarification means adding to, taking away from, glossing or reading into the JD something not there, then that is renegotiation. The Taoiseach and I will not renegotiate.
- In his letter, Mr Adams does not raise any point of detail for clarification. Instead, it seems he wants us to replace the Declaration with another document he says dates back to June. That is renegotiation not clarification.
- What we all want is clarification on what possible justification the IRA can see for continuing their evil campaign of murder.

The Irish Prime Minister, the Hon. Member for Foyle, Cardinal Daly and many others with a close understanding of Irish nationalism support the Declaration as providing a way forward. We believe they are right.