

Friday 21 January 1994

(Answered by the Prime Minister on Friday 21 January)

UNSTARRED  
No. 314

Dame Angela Rumbold: To ask the Prime Minister, if a response has yet been made to the letter he received from Mr Gerry Adams dated 7 January; and if he will make a statement.

**PRIME MINISTER**

I received an unsigned letter on Mr Adams' headed notepaper, dated 7 January 1994, last week. I have placed in the Library a copy of that letter and of a reply from my Private Secretary which was sent on 20 January. Mr Adams seeks to open issues for renegotiation by pointing back to a position which he asserts the Irish Government put forward in June last year.

The Joint Declaration of 15 December was the result of many months of discussion between the United Kingdom and Irish Governments. It is a fair and balanced statement of constitutional principles and political realities, which safeguard the interests and aspirations of both sides of the community. As the Taoiseach and I have made clear, there can be no question of renegotiation of the Joint Declaration.

Signed

Michael Ancras