

FROM: J A Dew  
British Embassy, Dublin

DATE: 12 January 1994

cc:

PS/PDS-B  
PS/Mr Fell  
Mr Thomas-B  
Mr Bell-B  
Mr Watkins-B  
Mr Williams-B  
Mr Brooker-B  
Mr Daniell-B  
Mr Archer, RID-B  
Mr Caine-B

Mr Maccabe

#### UUP VIEWS AFTER THE JOINT DECLARATION

1. I had a drink with Dr Christopher McGimpsey last night.
2. The Joint Declaration would not work the trick; the UUP had good information that the Provisional Army Council had formally voted to refuse a cessation of violence and reject the Declaration on 30 - 31 December. There was a clear split. Particular area groups North and South of the border were flatly opposed to the Declaration. Adams's own life was now only safe, in certain areas, because of Martin McGuinness's personal influence over the hard men.
3. UUP contacts with the Irish Government were not going well. Ken Macginnis had arranged a meeting (with the McGimpseys) with Fergus Finlay and Sean O hUiginn after a rugby match in Dublin on 8 January. Finlay had been prevented from accompanying Spring to South Africa in order to attend. It had been a sour occasion. O hUiginn had done the talking, telling them that the Irish Government would do the UUP no favours (and certainly not help them vis-a-vis the DUP), would definitely not renew Section 31, would not allow any daylight between themselves and Hume or "ever abandon Northern nationalists". O hUiginn had been confident there would be a Provisional cessation of violence - the "jury was still out" - and flatly rejected any contrary suggestions. Finlay had said the Provisionals should be given more time, until the "end of the month-ish". The last syllable, implying open-ended flexibility, seriously alarmed the UUP contingent. An early Spring/Molyneaux meeting was no longer on the cards.
4. Rivalry with the DUP was intense. He himself had gone as far as he dared at the last Belfast Council meeting in welcoming the Joint Declaration. Some humiliating back tracking loomed ahead for the UUP, unless there were some movement from HMG on the talks process soon. It must not be put on hold to give the Provisionals more time, or be diverted by the proposed Forum. The UUP looked forward to their meeting with Michael Ancram on 13 January. The Prime Minister must put

real pressure on John Hume at their meeting later this week. Constituency boundary changes would be announced shortly - likely to bring further trouble for the UUP in Belfast. Molyneaux had however just made a conspicuously successful round of party branches; fortunately the Irish had not announced their decision on Section 31 last week.

5. Mrs Jean Kennedy Smith had been in touch with him, seeking a tour up the Shankill Road early next month.

6. I told him that the Unionist profile in Dublin could be more systematically developed. The Taoiseach had referred to him by name after his Irish Association speech. Opposition parties would be very open to closer contact - John Bruton had made his own relationship with the UUP into a central feature both of his own recent strengthening within Fine Gael and of a more convincing line on Northern Ireland. Journalists would be interested too. He agreed to plan future visits accordingly.

7. He again raised the question of NIO funding for appearances in the US. HMG were mad to leave the field to Hume and Sinn Fein. Inhibitions about using public money to support opposition to the 1985 Agreement - the reason why no NIO funds were forthcoming - were surely now out of date. He can no doubt pursue this directly with the NIO.

JOINT DECLARATION STOCKTAKES

(SIGNED)  
J A Dew

As requested in your note of 5 January, I attach an annotated agenda for the Secretary of State's meeting next week. It covers a number of contingencies in terms of the Provisionals' response to the Joint Declaration and includes items for discussion under each.

To be considered alongside the items on the agenda will be key events in the coming weeks, in particular:-

TOPS for questions - 20 January

James Cochrane's Private Members motion on political development in Northern Ireland - 21 January

The Intergovernmental Conference - 24 January

RESTRICTED