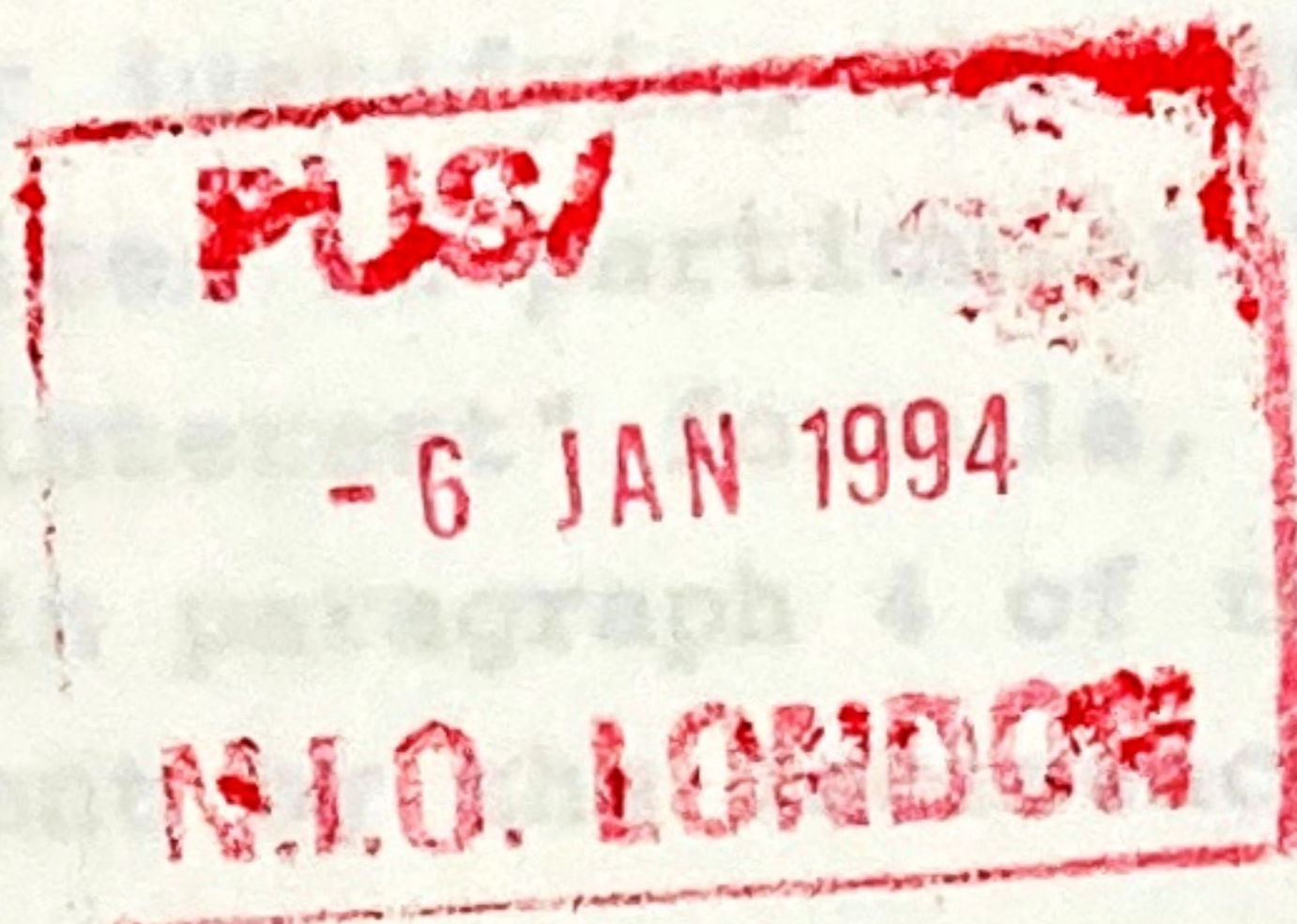


Roderic Lyne Esq CMG
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London

5 January 1994



Dear Roderic

COMMENTS ON THE JOINT DECLARATION

I attach copies of Mr Adams' and Mr Hume's recent statements on the Joint Declaration.

Mr Adams' statement, issued on 3 January, contains much standard republican rhetoric about partition being the cause of conflict in Ireland. But amongst this dross, there are one or two nuggets including: describing the reference to self-determination in paragraph 4 of the Declaration as "a potentially significant development"; recognising the need for "obtaining maximum consent" to the exercise of national self-determination, which should be done "in consultation and co-operation with the representatives of the unionists"; and recognition that what is ultimately sought is "an agreed accommodation". As a whole, the statement is consistent with Sinn Fein's current line of refusing to give a straight answer. However, after a few days in which their statements seemed to veer more towards the negative, this contains some positive messages.

Mr Hume's lengthy statement puts the full force of his authority, both as the leading constitutional nationalist politician in Northern Ireland and as a participant in the Hume/Adams dialogue, behind the Joint Declaration. His

TS/Secretary of State (148) - B
TS/Michael Ansell (148) - B
TS/PUS (148) - B
TS/Mr. Bell - B
Mr. Thomas - B

statement is essentially addressed to republicans and argues that the Joint Declaration makes it clear that the reasons previously given for justifying the use of the violence no longer exist. He cites in particular the "no selfish strategic economic interest" formula, the reference to self-determination in paragraph 4 of the Declaration and the proposed establishment by the Taoiseach of the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation.

Mr. Hume's support is all that we could have hoped for, and it very usefully maintains the pressure of Sinn Fein. Given this, we see considerable advantage in the Prime Minister finding time to see Mr Hume. We know Mr Hume would appreciate this and, even if diary problems mean that a meeting cannot be arranged for a little time, the offer of a meeting would indicate the importance we attach to Mr Hume's contribution.

A copy of this letter goes to John Sawes and Melanie Leach.

SIGNED

JONATHAN STEPHENS

- hcc: PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - B
- PS/Michael Ancram (L&B) - B
- PS/PUS (L&B) - B
- PS/Mr Fell - B
- Mr Thomas - B
- Mr Bell - B
- Mr Watkins - B
- Mr Williams - B
- Mr Brooker - B
- Mr Daniell - B
- Mr Maccabe - B
- Mr Rickard - B
- Mr Caine - B
- Mr Archer, RID - B
- HMA Dublin - B

- cc PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - B
- PS/Michael Ancram (L&B) - B
- PS/PUS (L&B) - B
- PS/Mr Fell - B
- Mr Thomas - B
- Mr Watkins - B
- Mr Bell - B
- Mr Williams - B
- Mr Maccabe - B
- Mr Brooker - B
- Mr Kyle - B
- Mr Archer, RID - B
- HMA, Dublin

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL: JOINT DECLARATION CAUSES CONFUSION

(w/o attachments)

SUMMARY

The debate on the Joint Declaration allowed all parties to re-state the public positions currently developed by their leaders. Tactical voting ensured that the SDLP motion plus UUP and DUP amendments were all voted down. Afterwards, Reg Empey privately expressed his views on the need to maintain political momentum.

DETAIL

2. The debate on the Joint Declaration contained few surprises other than the fact that it was conducted in a good-tempered and generally well-behaved fashion. The SDLP commended the Joint Declaration as a balanced document which threatened no-one, but which presented a challenge to all. While their considered response to the Joint Declaration could not be postponed indefinitely, the Republican movement must be given some time to escape from the gun culture of the last 25 years. The DUP for the most part followed McIlroy's hint of not finding the Joint Declaration to be good or bad, although Chris McGlothey's textual analysis came close to