

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE
12 OCTOBER 1993

Copy no of [10]

cc. Michael Ancram	[2]
PS/PUS (B)	[3]
Mr Thomas o/r	[4]
Mr Deverell	[5]
Mr Rickard	[6]
Mr C Glyn-Jones	[7]
Mr Beeton	[8]
Mr May	[9]
File	[10]

MR COOKE [1]

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JTB

JOINT DECLARATION

Thank you for your submissions of 8 and 11 October, which the Secretary of State discussed with PUS this morning, along with the latest text as attached to Mr Thomas's submission of 8 October.

2. The Secretary of State noted the considerable improvements in the latest text. Nevertheless, he agreed with your recommendation that an explicit reference to the constitutional guarantee in paragraph 4 was necessary. He agreed with PUS that continuing the process of talking only about "principles" with the Irish was unlikely to achieve this and that the time had now come to propose textual amendments; and he will recommend that the Prime Minister agrees to this.

3. The Secretary of State considered carefully whether we should put to the Irish the whole of the UK version of paragraph 4 (as discussed with the Prime Minister at his last meeting). He concluded, however, that having made no textual amendments so far, it could be taken as a wrecking amendment to propose wholesale amendment to paragraph 4. He therefore agreed with your recommendation to insert an explicit reference to the constitutional guarantee in the current Irish version of paragraph 4, but has amended the wording slightly..

SECRET AND PERSONAL

The Secretary of State also considered whether (as envisaged in your original draft) he should see Mr Molyneux before seeing the Prime Minister on Thursday. He concluded that it would be best to await the Prime Minister's agreement to the textual amendments he is proposing, before approaching Mr Molyneux. Martin Smyth's comments yesterday give an indication that the UUP may be prepared to give a not wholly negative reaction.

5. A number of minor amendments are reflected in the final version of the minute to the Prime Minister which you should see later today.

JAS

J A STEPHENS
PRIVATE SECRETARY
12 OCTOBER 1993