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FROM: Q J THOMAS, DUS(L)  
8 October 1993  
DUSL/MR/42321

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE(L)-[1]  
(MR STEPHENS)

cc Michael Ancram(L)-[2]  
PS/PUS(L)-[3]  
Mr Deverell-[4]\*  
Mr Cooke-[5] — *com Destroyed 22/8*  
Mr Rickard-[6]\*  
Mr C Glyn-Jones-[7]+  
Mr Beeton-[8]  
Mr May-[9]\*  
PS/Sir R Butler-[10]+  
Sir T Daunt-[11]+  
Mr Roderic Lyne(PERSONAL)  
-[12]+  
(+ enc.ID.42320)

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\* Mufax via Liaison(L)  
+ via Liaison(L)

JOINT DECLARATION INITIATIVE: PHONE CALL FROM MR O HUIGINN  
8 OCTOBER 1993

Mr O hUiginn phoned me today following up Sir Robin Butler's meeting on the Joint Declaration Initiative.

2. Mr O hUiginn said that the text as it emerged from the discussion in the Butler/Nally group had now (with minor amendments) been approved by the Taoiseach. (Mr O hUiginn explained that the Tanaiste had not formally pronounced on it but he did not expect him to have any points on it.) The text is attached (JD.12). It now includes approved language in paragraphs 5 and 7, in place of the passages previously in square brackets. The only point of significance, and I registered with Mr O hUiginn that this might be a difficulty, is that the words "freely and collectively" which had been provisionally removed from the penultimate sentence of paragraph 4 have been re-introduced.

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3. Mr O hUiginn explained that if and when we conveyed that this text, and the scheme as a whole, was acceptable in principle the Taoiseach would proceed to the next step. I explained that I did not expect us to signal a response until next week, and that I was not sure when it would be next week. In the meantime I alluded to our difficulty about a reference to "the constitutional guarantee". I recalled that we had registered this at the meeting, though we had gone on to devise a form of words in paragraph 3 which might get round it. I said to Mr O hUiginn that, while I was speaking without instructions, I could foresee that this point might remain a difficulty. This led Mr O hUiginn to explain that the Taoiseach had confirmed his judgement that a fuller statement would make the document unsaleable to the Provisionals. Mr O hUiginn said: "Everything I said about this at the meeting was an understatement."

4. I then asked Mr O hUiginn about the four understandings which had been sought at the Butler/Nally meeting, namely:

- (i) That there were no side deals or private understandings;
- (ii) that the Irish Government saw this Initiative as compatible with the Talks and that they would remain committed to them;
- (iii) that it was not envisaged that Sinn Fein would secure, or expect it, immediate talks with the British Government;
- (iv) that in the Taoiseach's judgement the Initiative would lead to an ending of violence by the Provisionals (though with the noted possibility that a rump would fight on).

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5. Mr O hUiginn said that the Taoiseach confirmed those understandings, subject to one point on the last. (Since we were speaking allusively Mr O hUiginn's formulation of these understandings might not be exactly the same.) The Taoiseach was entirely content that, if it got the go-ahead, the JDI should proceed on the basis that HMG would act in response to a judgement by the Taoiseach that the Initiative would bring about an ending of violence, but the Taoiseach had not yet reached that judgement. (Though Mr O hUiginn did not say so the implication might be that he wished to test that proposition again through his intermediaries.) I asked Mr O hUiginn whether it was proposed to register those understandings in a letter. Mr O hUiginn said that he was sure that that was acceptable in principle and that the letter could be sent early next week, but he asked whether at this stage we would find it helpful to have a letter since it would compromise our position that the Irish Government had not reported to us on the Hume/Adams demarche. After a word with Mr Chilcot, I told Mr O hUiginn that we would prefer not to receive a letter at this stage.

6. I should also record that when I mentioned to Mr O hUiginn that our response might not be signalled until later in the week beginning 11 October he again emphasised that, because of the Hume/Adams demarche, time was of the essence.

[SIGNED]

Q J THOMAS  
8 October 1993  
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