

PS PMS

Patrick Anderson

Mr. Thomas

Mr. Devenish

Mr. Coakley

Mr. Lusk

Mr. Butler

Mr. May

From the Private Secretary

PERSONAL

SECRET



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

15 November 1993

*Sean Martin,*

I have asked David Blatherwick if he could kindly pass this letter and its enclosure to you, and give a copy also to Sean O hUiggin.

The Prime Minister was very grateful to the Taoiseach for the time which he gave me late on Friday evening. I gave him a full report as soon as I returned on Saturday. Now is not the place for me to go further into substance, save to say that we shall obviously continue to work as rapidly as possible in moving through the sequence which I described. One additional element is that I understand that Archbishop Eames may be seeking to have a further discussion with the Taoiseach before he comes to see the Prime Minister.

May I add to the Prime Minister's appreciation my own thanks to you and Sean for your time and your hospitality, including a dinner the excellence of which I did not fail to notice despite the invigorating conversation accompanying it?

Later this evening, the Prime Minister will be delivering a strong statement on Northern Ireland as a substantial part of his speech to the Lord Mayor's Banquet. I enclose the relevant part of his advance text. You may wish to pass a copy to the Taoiseach. The Prime Minister drafted this passage in the light of my report, and specifically of some of the views you expressed. As you will see, he addresses in the most explicit form the importance of the opportunity for peace, and the fact that we are "actively seeking a framework to deliver peace, stability and reconciliation".

Please keep in touch as things develop in the run up to the bilateral summit and beyond. The Prime Minister is in no doubt of the importance of our Governments continuing to work together, which, as you know, he asked me to emphasise on Friday. If there are developments which cause concern on

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one side or the other, we should communicate directly and quickly - and not, I hope, pay too much attention to the press, much of whose speculation is at the moment distinctly unhelpful.

*Yours truly,*

*Roderic Lyne*

MEETING WITH THE FAIRBANKS, 12 NOVEMBER

I would be grateful if this letter and its enclosures could be given a strictly limited circulation.

**RODERIC LYNE**

**Mr Martin Mansergh**

This letter is to supplement the letter of my visit to Dublin on the evening of 12 November which I have given to you and to others. With the Ambassador, I had a long and at times fairly heated discussion with the Ambassador at 15pm, followed by some more hours of further discussion and a dinner with Martin Mansergh (Political Advisor to the British) and Sean O'Leary. I enclose the Ambassador's statement and summary of the discussion.

I stressed that the purpose of my visit was not to negotiate or to gain the substance of the Joint Declaration. I had been sent to deliver the Prime Minister's letter, to explain the thinking which lay behind it, to underline the importance which the Prime Minister attached to cooperation with the Government and to his personal relationship with the Ambassador, and to correct the misapprehension that we had definitively rejected the Joint Declaration approach. On the latter point, I said that Sir Patrick Dwyer had described the many difficulties which we saw in the Joint Declaration, especially as a result of Hume/Adams. We had as great an interest as anyone in a cessation of violence, but had to be sure that any proposals were viable, and were not likely to lead Northern Ireland into even greater difficulties. Sir Patrick MacDonnell would be seeing Archbishop Hume on the following day. The Prime Minister was then due to have a meeting with the Archbishop. He and other Ministers concerned would need to consider very carefully the proposals made by the Irish Government. This was likely to take us about a week. We would then be able to send our definitive response. That, effectively, was how matters were left at the end of the evening.