

FROM: MR THOMAS INITIATIVE  
DUS(L)  
17 NOVEMBER 1993

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1. Should we table the new version of  
Or assent to their draft (JD13)  
2. If it does not, it will risk losing  
Talks process and a chance to test  
are seriously interested in a  
reasonable terms.

- Copy no ..... of [8]
- cc. PS/PUS(L) [2]
- Mr Deverell [3]
- Mr Cooke [4]
- Mr Rickard [5]
- Mr Beeton [6]
- Mr May [7]
- File [8]

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE  
MR STEPHENS [1]

**POLITICAL MOVEMENT: PRE MEETING**

I attach an aide memoire for the Secretary of State's prebrief  
at 3.00pm.

Arguments against tabling a paper might include: any paper  
which is taken seriously will involve HMG adopting forward  
language, of relevance to the Talks process and constitutional  
balance, which it will in practice be difficult to retreat  
from. As such it will risk provoking the Unionists and  
loyalists for uncertain purposes. (At best it secures peace;  
but a worst case scenario involves compromising our position  
without even getting the Irish side to take our effort  
seriously. They have said that the constitutional guarantee  
a sine qua non for us, would in itself render the document  
unavailable.)

Signed:

Q J THOMAS  
DUS(L)  
17 NOVEMBER 1993

this, tabling a paper is probably the best way of  
that securing peace or smothering the Provisionals.  
their airaic pretensions are bogus, and  
bringing the Irish Government and Home back to the Talks  
process. (Reynolds has already been brought to say that peace  
cannot be a precondition to political development.)