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From the Private Secretary

25 November 1993

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I understand that it has now been confirmed that Sir Robin Butler will go to Berlin on 20 November to discuss the British draft of a joint declaration with the German Government.

I enclose a letter from the Prime Minister to the Taoiseach, delivered by Sir Robin Butler. The Prime Minister thought that we should expose in the draft attached to John Stephens' letter of 23 November. The draft has been redrafted accordingly.

For similar reasons, the Prime Minister would like paragraphs 6 and 7 of Sir Robin's speaking notes to be adjusted. The last sentence of paragraph 6 should be deleted. So should the second sentence of paragraph 7. The first sentence of paragraph 7 might be replaced by the following:

"The British Government cannot put itself in the position of negotiating with the Provisional IRA, whether directly or through intermediaries. This would constitute categorical assurances repeatedly given in the House of Commons by Ministers. The text I am giving you, therefore, is for discussion between our two Governments - just as we have previously held discussions about the joint declaration."