



FROM: J A Dew
British Embassy, Dublin

DATE: 10 December 1993

cc: PS/Sofs(L&B)-B
PS/Michael Ancram-B
PS/Sir J Wheeler-B
PS/PUS(L&B)-B
PS/Mr Fell-B
Mr Thomas-B
Mr Watkins-B
Mr Williams-B
Mr Wood(L&B)-B
Mr Brooker-B
Mr Cooke-B
Mr Dodds-B
Mr Maccabe-B
Mr Bell-B
Mr Rickard-B
Ms Jude
Mr Caine-B
Mr Beeton-B

Mr Archer-B
RID

JOINT DECLARATION INITIATIVE - HANDLING PLAN

1. We have seen Peter Bell's minute of 9 December setting out a framework for a handling plan.
2. We have no particular comments on what Peter Bell proposes. We will need a detailed line to take here from the earliest possible moment. But you and others may like to consider whether we should seek to enlist the Irish into some sort of joint British/Irish briefings in third countries eg Washington, EC Capitals, Holy See etc.
3. I believe that this was done quite formally after the 1985 Agreement, and that it made a big impact, preventing different (and thus confusing) messages being given out by the two governments and demonstrating a degree of mutual trust. Even on a less formal basis, it should make it a bit harder for the Irish to diverge from agreed lines when addressing a domestic audience.

(SIGNED)
J A Dew