

IMMEDIATE

FROM: D A L COOKE  
SIL/TPU  
9 DECEMBER 1993

cc PS/Michael Ancram (L&B) [3&4] - B  
PS/PUS (L) [5] - B  
PS/Mr Fell [6] - B  
Mr Legge [7] - B  
Mr Thomas [8] - B  
Mr Deverell [9] - B  
Mr Bell [10] - B  
Mr Williams [11] - B  
Mr Brooker [12] - B  
Mr Rickard [13] - B  
Mr Maccabe [14] - B  
Mr Beeton [15] - B  
HMA Dublin [16] - B  
Mr Archer, RID [17] - B  
File [18]

*Desmond* *627/5/96*

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (L&B) [1&2] - B

## JOINT DECLARATION INITIATIVE

In preparation for any joint press conference at which the Joint Declaration might be made next week, I attach drafts of an opening statement for the Prime Minister and a question and answer brief which might be used by both the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach.

2. We have been working on the assumption that both of these drafts might need to be shown, and perhaps even cleared and reconciled, with the Irish side. Joint question and answer material was indeed used by the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach in 1985 when the Anglo-Irish Agreement was signed.

3. Mr Thomas has asked me to raise two questions with the Secretary of State. First, is he broadly content with the lines taken in this material? Secondly, does he think that they need to be cleared with the Prime Minister before they are put to the

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Irish side for brokering, or would he be content for us to get on with this, perhaps on the basis that the final outcome was ad referendum to the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach.

4. If the Secretary of State is content for us to go ahead on an ad referendum basis, there are various possible ways of proceeding. The one which Mr Thomas favours would be to authorise HMA Dublin to put these texts to the Irish side and invite them either to suggest additions/amendments or to have a meeting with us on Monday.

(SIGNED)

D A L COOKE  
SIL/TPU  
9 DECEMBER 1993  
OAB EXT 6587