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From the Private Secretary

7 December 1993

RODERIC LYNE

Dear Jonathan,

ARCHBISHOP EAMES

Distribution of this letter should be strictly limited.

At the Prime Minister's request, I had a word with Archbishop Eames on the telephone on 7 December (following a supportive personal letter which he sent the Prime Minister just before the Dublin Summit).

I gave Eames a broad description of the point we had reached in our discussions with the Irish, stressing that we were saying very little in public and that this was for his personal background only.

He was grateful, especially as he has received yet another invitation to see the Taoiseach. I said that, on this occasion, I hoped that he would find that we and the Irish Government were singing much the same tune.

In even stronger terms than he had used last week, Eames said that it would be a grave mistake for the Joint Declaration to refer to an Irish Convention. This would make it completely unacceptable to Unionists. I said that we took a similar view, but did not yet know for certain whether the Taoiseach would now accept that the relevant paragraphs had to be deleted from the text.

Eames asked if we were aware that the Irish were involved in efforts to promote contacts between PIRA and Loyalist paramilitaries. I said that I was not entirely clear how active a role the Irish Government were playing; but they had mentioned these contacts to us on at least two recent occasions.

I am copying this letter to Stephen Smith (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours ever,
Roderic Lyne

RODERIC LYNE

Jonathan Stephens Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office