

29-OCT-93 16:07 FROM: 10 DOWNING ST (1)

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

29 October 1993

Dear Jonathan,

UK IRISH JOINT STATEMENT TO BE ISSUED AT BRUSSELS:
29 OCTOBER 1993

Thank you for the draft text and suggested amendments which you sent me overnight (as FCO telegram number 207 to UKREP Brussels). We discussed the text by telephone this morning, and I have since had a series of consultations with Quentin Thomas.

The upshot is that, at 2 pm Brussels time, I have reached agreement with Michael Manser and Noel Dorr on a joint statement which has been approved by the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister.

The text of the joint statement follows this fax.

The sequence of events will now be that:

- The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach will have a bilateral meeting for about half an hour in the course of the afternoon. I cannot yet say exactly when this will take place.
- There will be a mute photocall when they meet.
- After the meeting, Gus O'Donnell and the Irish Press Officer will give the joint statement to the press.
- After a further interval, the two delegations will give separate press briefings. There will not be a joint press conference of the two principals, or of their Press Officers. But we have agreed with the Irish that we shall both brief with care, basing ourselves closely on the joint text.

You and copy addressees will wish to keep the text closely under wraps (in case of any further changes, though there ought not to be any) until you know that we have put it out.

May I leave it to you to decide what action to take over the statement with the constitutional parties. You may see merit in briefing Molyneux et al as soon as you know that we

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are going public, in order to point out to them the considerable virtues of this document (including the clear statement that the Hume/Adams report has not been endorsed or even passed on; the reiteration of the consent principle; and the clear, renewed commitment by the Irish Government to support for the talks process).

You will also no doubt be considering how to follow up the joint statement over the weekend in press interviews and commentary.

I am sending copies of this letter to John Sawers (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Melanie Leech (Cabinet Office) and to David Blatherwick in Dublin.

Handwritten signature: Roderic Lyne

RODERIC LYNE

Jonathan Stephens Esq
Northern Ireland Office

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