

DRAFT LETTER FOR SIGNATURE BY PS/SECRETARY OF STATE TO:

Roderic Lyne Esq CMG
Principal Private Secretary
to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London

October 1993

JOINT DECLARATION - BRIEFING MR MOLYNEAUX

The Prime Minister will brief Mr Molyneaux, subject to any decisions taken at Monday morning's meeting of Ministers, on the Joint Declaration Initiative. We envisage the Prime Minister will not wish to ask Mr Molyneaux for a yes or no to the Initiative, nor seek his commitment to it. He will rather give Mr Molyneaux his own frank account and assessment of the present position, and ask for his advice and judgement as an experienced political leader in Northern Ireland on the chances of the Initiative securing general acceptability. The Prime Minister may also wish to seek Mr Molyneaux's personal support for his decision to make the difficult judgement that the Initiative was something that should be considered, given the possibility of securing the great prize of an ending of violence by the Provisionals.

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In outlining the position to Mr Molyneaux the Prime Minister may wish to sketch the background to the present position, including an explanation that the Initiative does not arise wholly from Mr Hume's contacts with Mr Adams, and that the Government's view has been conditioned by its own intelligence assessments of the likelihood of a Joint Declaration leading to peace. He may also wish to emphasise the Government's insistence that any Declaration would have to make explicit reference to the guarantee of Northern Ireland's constitutional status.

I enclose a speaking note in bull point form for the Prime Minister, and copies of a slightly revised intelligence assessment, and the current draft of the Joint Declaration incorporating our proposed amendments (minus a single phrase in the additional sentence in paragraph 4), which the Prime Minister might show to Mr Molyneaux during the meeting. ~~The speaking note assumes that the Prime Minister will not wish to use this occasion to say anything to Mr Molyneaux about legislative procedures.~~

The most that can be expected is to secure Mr Molyneaux's private understanding and agreement to react publicly in a cautious rather than hostile way. If he jibs, the

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Prime Minister might ask him to reflect overnight. Mr Molyneaux is unlikely to seek changes to the wording of the Declaration, although we could consider after the meeting whether ~~to~~ ~~add~~ any of his reactions suggest

Robert Molyneux