

FROM Q J THOMAS, DUS(L)  
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—Mr Cooke-[7]  
Mr Rickard-[8]\*  
Mr Beeton-[9]  
Mr May-[10]\*  
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PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MR HUME

At the time of writing this I am not sure whether the Prime Minister will see Mr Hume or whether the Secretary of State will do so first. In any event it seemed likely that such a meeting will take place shortly.

2. I have accordingly prepared the attached briefing on a contingency basis.

3. I have done so in advance of seeing the note of the Prime Minister's meeting with the Taoiseach. It may be that something was said then to encourage hopes that in certain circumstances HMG might take the Joint Declaration approach seriously. It does seem that there is some difference between the British and Irish sides on what is intended by the statement in the joint communiqué:

- "They agreed that the two Governments must continue to work together in their own terms on a framework for peace,

stability and reconciliation, consistent with their international obligations and their wider responsibilities to both communities."

While the British side interpret this in terms of the Talks process, the Irish side, as we expected, imply that there may be other things going on as well, including the possibility of drawing on elements of the Hume/Adams dialogue.

4. Fortunately the six principles in the joint statement provide a sound platform for dealing with the question of further direct or indirect exchanges with the Provisionals.

[SIGNED]

Q J THOMAS  
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