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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

4 June 1993

From the Private Secretary

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bc: RB
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Dear Stephen,

UK/IRISH BILATERAL: WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE

Thank you for your letter of 2 June.

I understand that the Irish team of eight is not reducible. We shall therefore arrange a working supper for 16 (by importing a table into the pillared room here).

On our side, in the absence of the Foreign Secretary, I suggest that the line-up for the supper should be: Prime Minister, Northern Ireland Secretary, Cabinet Secretary, ~~Sir David Gillmore~~, Sir Rodric Braithwaite, John Chilcot, David Blatherwick, Private Secretary.

Talks

The agenda will be a mixture of European and bilateral/Northern Irish business. Do you think that it makes sense to deal with this throughout in a plenary session between the two delegations? The alternative would be to begin with a series of bilaterals (Prime Minister/Taoiseach; Foreign Secretary/Tanaiste; Northern Ireland Secretary/Minister of Justice), with the teams coming together either for a plenary at around 7.00pm or for drinks and supper. I should be grateful for your advice.

In any pre-supper plenary, each team would be the same as for dinner, but with the addition of the Foreign Secretary.

I assume that you will be sending a more detailed agenda after the 9 June meeting between officials; and that briefing will then be written to match it. Could I have the briefing by the close on **Monday 14 June**?

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- 2 -

Press arrangements

I should be grateful also for advice on Press handling. We shall do a photocall on arrival. Do we need also to arrange for the two Prime Ministers to do a 10 minute doorstep in Downing Street, presumably before the supper? Will they have enough to say to justify this? The timing of course would not be ideal for deadlines.

I am sending copies of this letter to Jonathan Stephens (Northern Ireland Office) and Melanie Leech (Cabinet Office).

yours ever,

Roderic Lyne.

RODERIC LYNE

Stephen Smith Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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