

SECRET AND PERSONAL

DRAFT LETTER

FILE NUMBER

ADDRESSEE'S REFERENCE

TO: Roderic Lyne Private Secretary to the Prime Minister 10 Downing Street LONDON SW1A	ENCLOSURES:	COPIES TO BE SENT TO
---	-------------	----------------------

FOR SIGNATURE BY: PS/SECRETARY OF STATE

JOINT DECLARATION: PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MR MOLYNEAUX

I understand that the Prime Minister intends to speak to Mr Molyneaux (probably after Cabinet) following the Ministerial meeting tomorrow morning. I attach at Annex A a speaking note for the Prime Minister to use in that meeting and two copies of the latest text of the Joint Declaration (JD15) at Annexes B and C.

The Prime Minister will wish to show Mr Molyneaux this latest text, but there is a judgement to be made about how far we should direct Mr Molyneaux's attention towards the specific amendments, both Irish and British, which are underlined in the version at Annex B. If he judges it best he could use the document at Annex C which has the underlinings removed, but which

SECRET AND PERSONAL

SC/SIL/22448

nevertheless, preserves the square brackets around the alternative versions of the explicit constitutional guarantee and around paragraphs 10 and 11.

The Prime Minister's objectives for the meeting might be

- a) to seek to maintain Mr Molyneaux's acquiescence, if not his endorsement, for the Joint Declaration while making it clear that it is the Government's intention now to make the Declaration;
- b) to point out to Mr Molyneaux the improvements that have been made in the current text - with his help;
- c) to explain that there is advantage in the Declaration being made whether or not any confidence can be placed in the hope that the Taoiseach has entertained that it will lead to a cessation of violence;
- d) to tell Mr Molyneaux that the Government intends to make clear before Christmas that our consultations will be on the footing that the Government now believes that the time for a Northern Ireland Select Committee has come and we envisage inviting the House in the New Year to agree to its establishment; and

PM

e) to underline the Prime Minister's continuing commitment to the Talks process as a whole (partly in order to emphasise that an "internal settlement" focusing solely on Strand One would be unlikely to receive the broad support which would be necessary for it to succeed).

SPEAKING NOTE

Grateful for continuing to speak to you about the Joint Declaration. Useful meeting in Dublin on Friday, and I now believe we can have a text we can live with. Your help in getting us this far has been greatly appreciated.

(Show text - either Annex B including underlinings showing recent amendments, or Annex C without the underlinings.) You can see that this incorporates an explicit statement of the constitutional guarantee - either in para 3 or at the beginning of para 4 and retains other amendments which you and Dr James suggested.

The Irish are considering our preference for the new para 12 instead of the existing paras 10 and 11 which talk about the permanent Irish Convention. I believe they may go along with us on that, but that they may - probably in the event of the IRA announcing a cessation of violence - announce unilaterally that they will establish such a Convention.

Not looking for your agreement to this text. Realize that you have been as helpful so far as you have been able. Would like, however, to feel that you were able to acquiesce to our making the Joint Declaration.

My own judgement is that there is now considerable advantage in a Declaration being made whether or not any confidence can be placed in the hope that the Taoiseach has entertained that it will lead to a cessation of violence.