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3 December 1991

Jean Stephen,

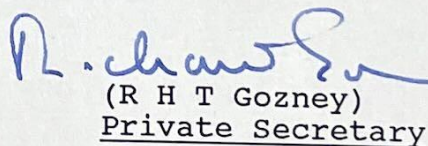
Prime Minister's visit to Dublin, 4 December

The enclosed Irish draft communique was handed this afternoon to HM Ambassador in Dublin by Dermot Nally. We had declined the Irish offer to exchange drafts earlier this week as ours included items on Northern Ireland which we did not wish to reveal to the Irish ahead of the meeting. The Irish have nevertheless chosen to give us an early sight of theirs.

The Irish text on Northern Ireland is unsatisfactory. It steers close to hinting at an imposed solution; it does not propose any enhancement of security cooperation. It also takes for granted a further bilateral in the first half of next year.

I am copying this letter to Tony Pawson (NIO) and Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,


(R H T Gozney)
Private Secretary

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