From: **ROD LYNE**
Date: **17 December 1993**

PRIME MINISTER   cc   **Gus O'Donnell**

JOINT DECLARATION: AND MOOD MUSIC

Archbishop Derek Worlock

Derek Worlock telephoned again this morning. He received a telephone call late on 15 December from Patrick Walsh, the Catholic Bishop of Down and Connagh. Walsh's predecessor was Cahal Daly. Worlock described Walsh as a much more cautious operator than Daly, and said that his message was the more significant for it. Walsh had said that he should let the Prime Minister know that people were deeply grateful for the time and priority which you were giving to Northern Ireland. They felt that this was the first real assurance that serious steps were being taken to deal with the situation.

Worlock added that there had been some attempts to stir up Orange factions in Liverpool before the Joint Declaration. But once the JD itself had come out, they had dissipated. The local press (which he described as "North Wales Protestant") had come out in favour today, after a day's hesitation.

Having spent years following this subject closely, Worlock said that he had been very moved by your statement in the House.

I renewed your thanks to him, and encouraged him to keep in touch.

Of these three points, the Forum claim is defensive and unconvincing. The other two are more unhelpful, but inevitable. We should <u>not</u> take issue with Reynolds if he goes no further - as we have been doing mirror image briefing for our own domestic audiences (for example, I have pointed up our adamant refusal to let the Irish have their "Convention" as well as other bull points for us in the text). The Sundays are bound to spread themselves examining the entrails of the story. Their coverage will have good and bad bits for us. We must not deflect our focus from the main target - the IRA. On this, the press coverage continues to be extremely positive.

Roderic

RODERIC LYNE
17 DECEMBER 1993

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