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From the Private Secretary

16 December 1993

Jean Martin,

The Prime Minister wrote yesterday evening to the Taoiseach, and our Embassy will be delivering that letter at the same time as this one.

May I take the opportunity to add a personal note to you? I know how incredibly hard you have worked to bring the Joint Declaration to fruition. I hope that you feel duly satisfied with the result. Yesterday was a momentous occasion, for which huge credit belongs to you for the determination you showed in pursuit of the objective and for your way of doing business.

Nothing that has happened in the past 24 hours leads me to feel that we got the text wrong. The Provisionals are clearly taking it very seriously. John Hume's immediate and unqualified support was a tremendous asset, and I hope that, in any further contacts he may have, he will stress that the document is not negotiable. It is time for an historic decision, and we must only hope that we get the right answer. Likewise, while there is deep concern and nervousness in the Unionist community, much of this stems from misrepresentation. We are doing all we can to bring home to the Unionists what the document really says, so that they do not believe those who are telling them that it has given away their sovereignty and democratic rights.

Good luck with your continuing efforts. The really hard part is only just beginning!

Yours ever,
Roderic Lyne

RODERIC LYNE

Dr Martin Mansergh