

From:
Date:

Roderic Lyne
16 December 1993

PRIME MINISTER

CABINET: NORTHERN IRELAND

You could make the following points:

- p. u/s.*
- 1 Congratulations to the NI Secretary, the NIO and Cabinet Secretary. (*Rod. Lyne*)
 - 2 Very wide support for Joint Declaration. House of Commons. Archbishops and Bishops. Clinton.
 - 3 Joint Declaration seems to have been pitched about right. Despite fears raised by advance leaks, nothing in it to which **Unionists** need to object. But Unionists inevitably suspicious, and we must work hard to reassure them and counter Paisley's distortions.
 - 4 **Provisionals** say they are disappointed that it does not give them more [helpful]. Difficult for them to reject outright, especially given Irish Government and SDLP support.
 - 5 This puts the Provisionals in a dilemma. Don't know what they will decide. But the point all Government spokesmen must focus on today is: **will the Provisionals give up violence for good and take the democratic path - they will never have a better opportunity?**
 - 6 We should not be sidetracked into a debate about what happens down the road, but need clear lines on this. **I understand that updated briefing material is being prepared and will be circulated to all Cabinet Ministers during the day.** Anyone going on the media in the next few days should get a briefing line first from NIO.