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From the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service
Sir Robin Butler GCB CVO

9 December 1993

IN CONFIDENCE

Dear Mr. Molyneux,

I have heard that you have been told of the existence of a letter from me to an Irish official containing criticisms of you and Archbishop Eames.

It is of the greatest possible importance to me to assure you that there is no such genuine document. I have sent no letters at all to the Irish Government in connection with the Joint Declaration, let alone any criticising you or Archbishop Eames. If the document can be produced or compared with my handwriting it will be shown to be false.

Unless there has been some dirty trick, there is one innocent explanation. The Taoiseach's private secretary is called Callum Butler. Have I been confused with him?

I know that you have suspicions of Cabinet Office officials in all this, but I can assure you that there are no grounds for them. As the Prime Minister will confirm, I was in the forefront of those advising him to consult you fully when the Joint Declaration became a real possibility and to rely heavily on your judgement.

If you would like at any time to talk this through with me I am at your service. It is important to me not to be mistrusted by you. I have no difficulty about your passing on any of this to Archbishop Eamer.

Yours sincerely,
D. L. R. H.