

SECRET AND PERSONAL

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FROM: PUS
25 JANUARY 1991

FROM: D G McNEILL, PAB
DATE: 25 JANUARY 1991

Copy no 4 of [4]

cc. Mr Pilling [2]
Mr Deverell - B [3]

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE [1]

POLITICAL MOVEMENT AND THE PROVISIONALS

I have spoken to Mr Hume this morning on the lines approved by the Secretary of State yesterday, and Mr McNeill is going to see Mr Hume today to give him copies of the transcript of the Secretary of State's replies to questions at the opening of the Tyrone Glass Company at Dungannon on 22 January, and of his Christmas statement about the ceasefire. Mr Hume seemed entirely content with that. I have also passed on the Secretary of State's good wishes for Mr Hume's trip to North America, and his desire for a talk about that as well as other matters when Mr Hume is back.

2. Mr Hume also told me that he saw the Taoiseach yesterday in Dublin, who had indicated he would want a wholly private word with the Secretary of State in the margins of the IGC on Thursday 31 January, to discuss the way forward in terms of the interaction between the political development process and the prospect of the Provisionals giving up violence.

3. Mr Hume repeated what he had said to Mr McNeill and myself on 11 January (Mr McNeill's minute of 14 January records this), namely that there might be a joint declaration by both Governments confirming the consent principle, but indicating that the people(s) of Ireland had a better future together, within the European Community, that apart. He knows this is not the same as HMG's declared position. We will prepare further advice on handling this aspect in time for the IGC.

J A CHILCOT

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