



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

Mr. Cooke.

Roderic Lyne Esq CMG
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

22nd November 1993

Roderic Lyne

CONVERSATION WITH ARCHBISHOP EAMES: 20 NOVEMBER

I attach my Secretary of State's account of a telephone conversation he had with Archbishop Eames on Saturday 20 November. The Archbishop's comments about Mr Molyneaux were confirmed in a subsequent conversation which my Secretary of State had with Mr Molyneaux which I am sending to you separately.

Copies of this letter go to John Sawers and Melanie Leach.

Yours ever

Jonathan M.

JONATHAN STEPHENS
Private Secretary

SECRET AND PERSONAL

CONVERSATION WITH ARCHBISHOP EAMES: 20 NOVEMBER 1993

I spoke to Dr Eames in the afternoon of Saturday 20 November.

2. The Archbishop had seen Jim Molyneaux the previous day. He had been very agitated; frightened, even. At Glengall Street he had been asked whether he was not being led by the nose, and was questioned on the lines of "What have you agreed to?". On Thursday 18 November his secretary had been questioned similarly by David Burnside at a party: had he "given the nod" to another document? (That is to say, an alternative to the one he was known to have turned down.)

3. In the light of the Irish Press leak, Molyneaux said he would be 'finished' if it were known he had been consulted on a further document, or that he had had a letter from the Taoiseach. The leak had jeopardised former positions, and he had to run for cover. He wanted "to ponder" replying to the letter.

4. Dr Eames emphasised that he had shown Molyneaux only the three paragraphs 9-12, so Molyneaux could truthfully say he had not seen the whole document. It was these paragraphs with which Molyneaux had taken serious issue. But he could not possibly provide an alternative text in present circumstances.

5. Dr Eames was very anxious that I should reassure Molyneaux:

- (a) that he had intervened only by invitation;
- (b) that when the two of them had conferred, Dr Eames had had no knowledge that the Irish had already prepared the leaked document - as to which he felt considerably let down; and
- (c) that Molyneaux was central to the process and that Dr Eames was in no way a competitor.

I undertook to pass these messages on.

6. The Archbishop said he had suggested to Molyneux that he should speak to me. Molyneux had asked "would that be welcomed". Dr Eames had said he was sure it would be. He concluded by emphasising to me how important it was to reassure Molyneux of his centrality, and of his importance to the Government.

10 Downing Street
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November 1993

PM

CONVERSATION WITH MR MOLYNEUX: 21 NOVEMBER

22 November 1993

Secretary of State's account of a phone conversation he had with Mr Molyneux yesterday. As you know, Sir Patrick gave the Prime Minister an account of the conversation over the phone yesterday.

Copies of this letter go to John Sowers and Melanie Leach.

JONATHAN STEPHENS
Private Secretary