

SECRET AND PERSONAL

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LONDON SW1A 2AA

Office of the Taoiseach

Secret & Personal

16 November 1993

From the Private Secretary

P.S. 51, 5
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The Right Hon. Mr. John Major, M.P.
Prime Minister

NORTHERN IRELAND

With our relations with the Irish Prime Minister having entered a delicate phase for reasons set out in other correspondence, the Prime Minister thinks it would be useful if our Ambassador at Dublin could be brought fully abreast of recent approaches to a possible cessation of violence. This would help David Blatherwick to give advice on the best way of handling the Taoiseach. He would be in a better position to conduct business on the spot, and to act as a lightning conductor if there is further trouble.

The Prime Minister assumes that there would be security problems over sending the most sensitive papers to Mr Blatherwick in Dublin. Unless you see objection, he would therefore suggest that David Blatherwick should be asked to come over the London as soon as possible for a full briefing by the FCO and the NIO. Thereafter, within the constraints of security, he would like the Ambassador to be kept up to date with further developments. The Prime Minister has it in mind to invite Mr Blatherwick to the next meeting to consider the Government's response to proposals made by the Irish Government.

I am sending copies of this letter to Jonathan Stephens (Northern Ireland Office), Sir Robin Butler and Sir David Gillmore.

There was any public mention of Adams. I have not given you their report, and I tried in every way possible to create for you the necessary distance, so that you could consider the proposals which I put to you, which were originally drafted a long time ago with some input from John Hume in my own office. They have been considerably refined since. You have said publicly on a number of occasions that you had no difficulty in principle in listening to proposals that the Irish Government might put forward.

RODERIC LYNE

R J Sawers Esq
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