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Deputy Under Secretary
SECRET and PERSONAL

Sir Robin Butler GCB CVO
Secretary of the Cabinet and
Head of the Home Civil Service
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2AS

cc. PUS(L)
on return

Dear Robin

DUSL/MR/42084
29 September 1993.

JOINT DECLARATION INITIATIVE

I thought you might find it helpful to see this side copy of the briefing we are giving our Secretary of State for the discussion we expect to take place tomorrow on the Joint Declaration Initiative.

As you will see this envisages that further textual exchanges might take place in the group you and Dermot Nally convene, but that I might give some sort of signal to Sean O hUiginn in Dublin on Friday.

Needless to say I would be happy to play a more active part in Dublin, if indeed Ministers decide to authorise a greater engagement on this initiative. (Sean and I have an understanding that we will have time alone together against the possibility that there is business to transact.) But given the point matters have reached - and in particular the public focus on them following the Hume/Adams demarche - you and/or Ministers might see the Butler/Nally group as the thing.

I may well have a chance for a briefing meeting with our Secretary of State tomorrow morning and if you wanted me to attempt to tilt him in any direction I would be grateful for your guidance.

Yours sincerely,

Q. Thomas

QUENTIN THOMAS

SECRET and PERSONAL