

RESTRICTED

26

From: D E S Blatherwick
 Date: 10 January 1994

To: Mr G Archer, RID

cc: PS/Sof S (L&B)
 PS/Michael Ancram (L&B)
 PS/PUS
 PS/Mr Fell
 Mr Thomas
 Mr Bell
 Mr Williams
 Mr Watkins
 Mr Daniell
 Mrs Collins
 Mr Brooker
 Mr Maccabe
 Mr Rickard
 Ms Lodge
 Chancery Washington (by fax)

Mr Secretary of State (L&B)
 Mr Michael Ancram (L&B)
 Mr PUS (L&B)
 Mr Mr Fell
 Mr Williams
 Mr Devereux
 Mr Gifford
 Mr Grogan
 Mr Harcourt
 Mr Macdonald
 Mr Rickard
 Mr Rodell
 Mr Quinn
 Mr S. Sullivan
 Mr Archer RID

NORTHERN IRELAND: TALKS PROCESS

1. I forgot one point from my account of 7 January of a conversation with Martin Mansergh.
2. When I told Mansergh that we would like to resume the discussion of a draft paper, he said he doubted whether there was now much to talk about. The Declaration said everything necessary in Strand 3, and it would be pointless to try to adapt the wording to suit a draft talks paper. I hastily agreed, and said we wanted to know Irish views on Strand 2.
3. This suggests that for Mansergh at least the Declaration represents the limit of British 'concessions' on constitutional issues. The DFA may I suppose try to extract more; in which case we can quote at them the Taoiseach's words about no British Government being conceivably able to go further than the Declaration.

(Signed)
 D E S Blatherwick
 H M Ambassador

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL