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From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



- cc: PS/SJS (L+B)
- PS/PUS (L+B)
- PS/Mr Fell
- Mr Thomas
- Mr Laughran
- Mr Bell
- Mr Watkins
- Mr Williams
- Mr Steele
- Mr Wood (L+B)
- Mr Templeton
- Mr Brooker
- Mr May
- Mr Archer, RID
- HMA Dublin
- Mr Perry
- Mr Donnell
- Mr Quinn
- Floods

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Jonathan Haslam Esq
10 Downing Street
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30th December 1993

Dear Mr Haslam,

NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE NEWSLETTER

One of the consequences of the Prime Minister's visit to Northern Ireland was an invitation from the Newsletter to contribute a 1000 word article containing his message to Northern Ireland for 1994. It would be published on 3 January. As agreed, please find enclosed a draft for the Prime Minister's consideration.

The Secretary of State has seen and commented on an earlier draft but has not yet had the opportunity to see this one. It will go to him this evening and if he has any additional comments I will feed them in to you tomorrow (Friday).

In drafting this article we have tried to be positive and, because we are conscious of the need not to put all of our eggs in the "peace basket", we have mentioned how important it is to press forward with the Talks process (a point which will not be lost on Sinn Fein/IRA and should keep the pressure on them). No clear response has been made by the Provisionals to the Joint Declaration but the omens do not look all that good. We have also tried, therefore, to avoid saying anything which would give the Provisionals a pretext on which to hang a rejection of the Declaration.

In submitting the article so far in advance of publication, we run the risk of there occurring developments which affect

For the people of Northern Ireland, 1994 is a year of opportunity, perhaps more so than in living memory. The conditions are right for the content (for example a response from the Provisionals or an atrocity). We have been conscious of this in drafting, but in sending the article to the Newsletter we suggest that, as usual, you reserve the right to amend the text in the light of developments prior to publication. You will, therefore, want to keep in touch with events in Northern Ireland over the weekend.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign Secretary, the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Defence and Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely,
Rafiq Hussain
for Simon Rogers.

SIMON ROGERS
PS/Secretary of State

You, the people, are the key to this. But Governments must provide the framework. The Joint Declaration, which I and Albert Reynolds issued on 15 December 1993, does just that. In the name of both Governments, it restated in unequivocal terms the fundamental principles and guarantees which mean so much to all sides of the community in both parts of Ireland. It places great emphasis on respect for and understanding of different traditions and aspirations. In terms more comprehensive than ever before it sets out the philosophy which underpins the actions of both Governments.