CM

FROM: M J WILLIAMS
        US(POL)

        17 January 1994

cc PS/SofS (L&B) - B
    PS/Michael Ancram (L&B) - B
    PS/Sir John Wheeler (L&B) - B
    PS/PUS (L&B) - B
    PS/Mr Fell - B
    Mr Legge - B
    Mr Thomas - B
    Mr Bell - B
    Mr Watkins - B
    Mr Wood (L&B) - B
    Mr Daniell - B
    Mr Maccabe - B
    Mr Brearley - B
    Mr Caine - B
    HMA Dublin - B
    Mr Archer, RID - B

Mr Brooker - B

SECRETARY OF STATE'S DRAFT SPEECH: 21 JANUARY 1994

We had a word on the telephone about the draft outline speech for next Friday's debate in the House on a Private Member's Motion, enclosed with your minute of 14 January addressed to PS/Secretary of State. My main point was to suggest that this might be a suitable opportunity for the Secretary of State to place rather greater emphasis on what the Joint Declaration offered for non-violent nationalist opinion. A number of us have the impression that this is now the main priority, and it also coincides with what the Irish Government have been urging.

2. In particular, the speech might do the following:

    -    draw attention not only to the constitutional guarantee, but also the re-statement of "no selfish strategic or economic interest";

    -    quote, as flowing from the above, the formula in the JD on self-determination;

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- emphasise that the JD has received overwhelming support not only in Britain, but also in Ireland (from all the main political parties) and from the UUP, SDLP, and Alliance in Northern Ireland;

- confirm that the two governments regard the JD as a fair and valid basis for achieving peace in Northern Ireland, and that both governments intend to stick by it;

- welcome the Taoiseach's 10 January speech, particularly his statement that acceptance of the principle of consent is central to democracy.

3. I do not believe that any of the above points are in themselves controversial. However if the Secretary of State is able to include most or all of them in his speech to Parliament on 21 January, this will constitute an important and helpful recognition of nationalist interests.

[signed MJW]

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