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NORTHERN
IRELAND OFFICE
14 15 MAR 1994
SIL DIVISION

SILMAIL/35963

FROM Q J THOMAS, DUS(L)
15 March 1994
DUSL/MR/46403

PS/MICHAEL ANCRAM(DENI,L&B)
Rathgael Hse-Mfx

cc PS/Secretary of State(L&B)
PS/PUS(L&B)
PS/Mr Fell
Mr Legge
Mr Bell
Mr Watkins
Mr Williams
Mr Wood(L&B)
Mr Brooker
Mr Daniell
Mr Maccabe
Mrs Brown
Mr Kyle
Mr Archer RID/FCO
HMA Dublin
Mr Caine

FUTURE WORK OF THE LIAISON GROUP

Thank you for your minute of 14 March noting that Mr Spring has been on the radio emphasising the need for talks with the constitutional parties.

2. I am not sure what precisely he may have in mind: we know that he has been frustrated that his attempts to reach out to the Unionists in bilateral discussions have been unsuccessful, and that the Irish Government maintains its formal commitment to resume the three-stranded round-table Talks at any time.

3. But I hope that Mr Spring's remarks, and others which have followed, including some from the Taoiseach, indicate a refocussing on the Talks process following the Heathrow attacks.

4. While Mr Mallon and others in the SDLP seem ready to share this focus, Mr John Hume of course continues to urge the British

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Government to spend an hour (or two?) with the Provisionals.
Paradoxically today's Irish Times makes it clear that
yesterday's reports to the effect that the IRA sought direct
dialogue with HMG were inaccurate. Mr Hume appears to be asking
us to do something which the IRA itself does not want!

[SIGNED]

Q J THOMAS
15 March 1994
OAB 6447

Michael Ancram has noted your submission of 11 March with
agreement. Since this note, Mr Spring has been on the radio
emphasising the need for talks with the constitutional parties.
Have we any indications as to whether these are the old "round
table", a continuation of an IGC discussion, or something new?

SIGNED

KEITH JONES
PS/Michael Ancram
OAB 6447
14 March 1994