

C O N F I D E N T I A L

FROM: PUS
20 OCTOBER 1993

cc. PS/Mr Fell - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Williams - B
Mr Brooker - B
Mrs Collins - B
Mr Cooke - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Quinn - B
Mr Beeton - B
Ms Lodge - B
Mr Archer, RID, FCO - B
HMA Dublin
Mr Hallett, via SIL - B
Mr Caine - B

MR THOMAS - B

AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES 2 AND 3: JOINT FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT

I read with interest and admiration the draft text attached to your minute of 18 October to David Watkins.

2. Conscious that you will be going to the Liaison Group in Dublin in the morning, I thought I would simply make one point: the introductory sentence in paragraph 3 of the draft ("HMG understands and accepts the integrity and validity of the Irish Government's position ...") strikes me as going perhaps unintentionally a step too far. I think HMG would understand and respect the integrity and validity of the Irish Government's position (eg regarding the indivisibility of Ireland and the long-term aspiration to its political unity) but it does not actually accept it. It has a different vision (which is that geography does not define political entities nor history the future). Could I suggest one could substitute "respects" for "accepts" in line 1 of paragraph 3?

Signed:

J A CHILCOT

20 OCTOBER 1993

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JEN/L/10/34/46892