

CONFIDENTIAL

F. J. P.



82

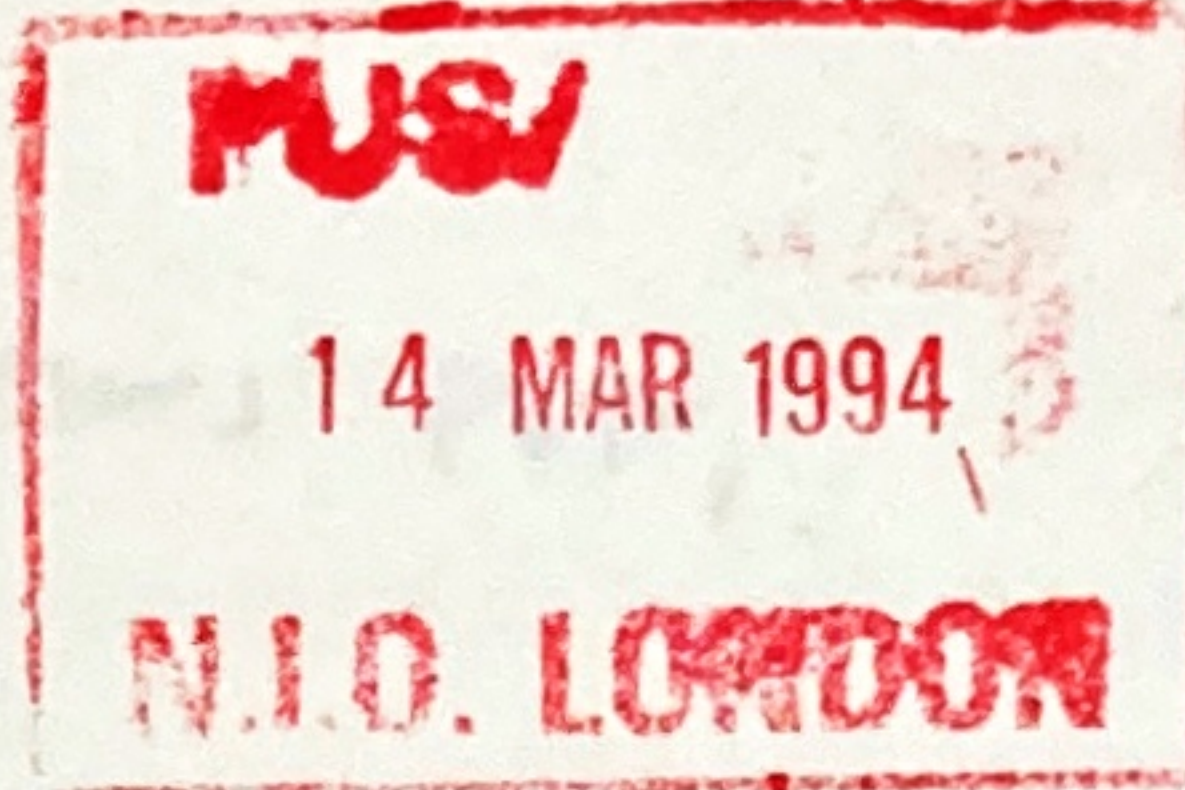
93/94

PUS

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

11 March 1994



John Jonathan,

**PRIME MINISTER'S CONVERSATION WITH THE TAOISEACH:
FRIDAY 11 MARCH**

The Prime Minister spoke to the Taoiseach for 10 to 15 minutes from about 4.15 this afternoon.

They cleared the enclosed press notice, based on the draft which John Chilcot sent earlier today. The Prime Minister said that the main purpose of the statement was to demonstrate that the two Governments continued to stand very closely together. *attached*

The Taoiseach (perhaps being a little indiscreet for an open telephone line) said that his security people had told him three weeks ago that something was being planned, possibly on the mainland. They had monitored the movements of key people. The Taoiseach found it hard to understand how these people had then slipped through the net. No-one had been able to give him an answer.

The Prime Minister said that the events of the last 48 hours had led to increased pressure here to pick the Joint Declaration off the table, pick up the IRA's ringleaders and so on. He thought it important to intensify security cooperation between the two countries.

As both Prime Ministers were short of time, the Prime Minister suggested that they should have a longer conversation after the Taoiseach's return from the United States, perhaps face to face. The Taoiseach said he would welcome this. I need not record the rest of the conversation, which covered the Taoiseach's visit to Washington, the Prime Minister's lunch with the Portuguese Prime Minister, and so on.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

I am sending copies of this to John Sawers (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Melanie Leech (Cabinet Office).

YADSEACH

The Prime Minister said the following in his speech to the House of Commons on 11 March 1998:

Yours truly,

Roderic Lyne

"Those who use and support violence for political ends are making a grave mistake."

We shall maintain the Good Friday Agreement because it is the right course. It is the course that the peoples of both of our countries

Jonathan Stephens, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.

We shall continue, with reinforced vigour and determination, our efforts to make peaceful political progress, in consultation with the constitutional political parties in Northern Ireland.

We shall also carry forward the close co-operation on security matters which has developed between our two countries. Our police and security forces will continue their intensive efforts to deal with terrorism, efforts which have delivered results recognised by both jurisdictions."

11 March 1998

CONFIDENTIAL