

FROM: PUS
13 JANUARY 1994

cc. PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - B
PS/Mr Fell - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Deverell - B
Mr Brooker - B
Mr Daniell - B
Mr Beeton - B
Mr May - B

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

JOINT DECLARATION - PROVISIONAL REACTION

Mr Loughran (Permanent Secretary DED) telephoned me this afternoon (13 January) to report conversations in Derry over the past 24 hours with Mr Paddy Doherty (not Mr Pat Doherty) who it is well known is quite close to, though not in any sense contaminated by, Provisionals in the area.

2. By contrast with the position a week ago, Mr Doherty was very optimistic about the prospect for peace arising out of the Joint Declaration. The Provisional movement in the Derry area were largely signed up to this, though "a small signal by HMG would create the necessary space".

3. Mr Loughran understood from that that the phrase "the Unionist veto" was uncomfortable. It was not necessary to readdress the text of the Joint Declaration, but a signal/indication from the British Government that it was not a Unionist veto as such but rather the democratic expression of the will of the people of Ireland in the North that was involved might well be helpful. The Taoiseach has used some such wording in his Irish Association speech (though as I recollect it - I have not had time to check - in terms of the agreement of the people of Ireland North and South that the wishes of the Protestant people of Northern Ireland could be set aside).

4. Mr Loughran said he should also report that the Provisional movement in Derry was thought to acknowledge that hard-liners in South Armagh, East Tyrone and in part West Belfast might not be of the same mind.

Signed:

JOHN CHILCOT

13 JANUARY 1994

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