

**Dermot Nally
Papers**

UCDA P254/38



10 DOWNING STREET
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THE PRIME MINISTER

24 September 1993

Dear Albert,

I was grateful for your letter of 7 September. Like you, I have reflected very carefully on the matters with which it deals.

I agree with what you say about achieving peace. A genuine and lasting end to violence in Northern Ireland would of course be an historic breakthrough. The sectarian killings by Loyalists in recent days, and the continuing PIRA attacks, are just the latest reminders of what is at stake.


During our private discussion on 16 June, I said to you frankly that the text then before us would not run as it stood. I judged that it would produce a backlash which would undermine any possibility of sustaining a cessation of violence and would not be acceptable to the House of Commons. But I was ready to agree without commitment that Sir Robin Butler and John Chilcot should meet Dermot Nally and Sean O hUiginn to explore the sort of principles which we might be able to consider. They have now had three meetings.

I am happy to confirm that I am content for that work to continue. The Liaison Group of officials, which followed the Intergovernmental Conference on 10 September and is to work on a Joint Framework Document for the talks,

provides the opportunity. Its joint heads (not the other members) can use their discussions of the text of such a document to develop language which could also be used to address the key difficulties in the Joint Declaration.

Against this background I have much appreciated your recent support for the Talks process.

I look forward to discussing these issues at our next meeting.

Yours Ever, *Alan*


The Taoiseach