

FROM: TONY BEETON
TALKS PLANNING UNIT
11 OCTOBER 1993

cc PS/PUS (B)* [2]
Mr Thomas [3]
Mr Deverell* [4]
Mr Rickard* [5]
Mr Stephens* (personal) [6]
Mr Glyn-Jones+ [7]
Mr May* [8]
File [9]

MR COOKE [1]

JOINT DECLARATION - BACKGROUND BRIEF

Your minute to PS/Secretary of State earlier today confirmed that we were not at present submitting the historical background note on the Joint Declaration. I thought that you and others might, however, like to have a copy of the draft as it now stands for information - and comment if you feel so moved.

2. In its present form it is a reasonably full narrative aimed not only at giving beginners in this matter an idea of its lengthy gestation, but also exposing how careful the public lines will need to be in the event of any disclosure. Others may have a different view but I think that although our engagement has fallen well short of even indirect negotiations with the Provisionals it will be difficult to claim quite as much distance as Ministers may feel comfortable with.

(SIGNED)

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11 OCTOBER 1993
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