

SECRET AND PERSONAL

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FROM: D A L COOKE
SIL/TPU
8 OCTOBER 1993

cc Michael Ancram [2]
PS/PUS (L) [3]
Mr Thomas [4]
Mr Deverell* [5]
Mr Rickard* [6]
Mr C Glyn-Jones+ [7]
Mr Beeton [8]
Mr May* [9]
File [10]

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE,
(MR STEPHENS - PERSONAL) [1]

JOINT DECLARATION

Mr Thomas reported yesterday on the meeting of the Butler/Nally Group on 6 October. He is also reporting separately today on a phone call from Mr O hUiginn conveying the Irish Government's acceptance in principle of the assurances sought from them and some further adjustment of the Joint Declaration text.

2. The Prime Minister is to hold a meeting next Thursday to discuss this subject. For that meeting, we have in preparation a short history of the Joint Declaration proposals, a self contained position paper, and an up-to-date intelligence assessment.

3. We envisage that these papers would be covered by a minute from the Secretary of State to the Prime Minister bringing out the key points and offering an assessment and proposals on the next steps. After discussion with NIO colleagues, I attach a draft of such a minute, which I hope is self explanatory, in order to let the Secretary of State know as early as possible what we suggest the way ahead might be. (Given the pressures on the Prime Minister's time, we might need on Monday to split this into a one and a half page minute and an Annex.)

4. The other papers will come forward on Monday.

(SIGNED)

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