

FROM: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY
SECRET AND PERSONAL



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(8)

N Cooke

Roderic Lyne Esq CMG
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London

5 October 1993

Dear Roderic,

**JOINT DECLARATION INITIATIVE: PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH
MR MOLYNEAUX**

The Prime Minister is hoping to meet Mr Molyneaux in Blackpool to reassure him about the Government's position in the wake of the Hume/Adams démarche and the intense public speculation which has followed it.

The Secretary of State saw Mr Molyneaux yesterday. He reported unease, and a fear of betrayal, among grassroots unionist opinion in the wake of the Hume/Adams statement. He welcomed the reassurances the Secretary of State has been giving in public and asked in particular for the Government to repeat that it would stand by the democratically-expressed wishes of the people of Northern Ireland. He said that for the present this would be preferable to repeating that if a majority of the people of Northern Ireland wanted to leave the Union the Government would not stand in their way.

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I attach a speaking note which the Prime Minister might wish to use when he sees Mr Molyneaux. The Secretary of State suggests that the Prime Minister gives Mr Molyneaux categorical reassurance that the Government has not been involved in secret deals or proxy negotiations. The Prime Minister can allude to the potential significance of what has gone on between Hume and Adams, and hence to our need to find out about it; but at this time Sir Patrick suggests that the Prime Minister goes no further. He can promise to keep Mr Molyneaux informed about further developments, and repeat his commitment to upholding the democratically-expressed wishes of the people of Northern Ireland as to their future. The script also mentions that we had not thought it right to brief others, including Dr Paisley at the present.

Tony Beeton

PP

J A STEPHENS

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