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S E C R E T   A N D   P E R S O N A L

FROM: A C BEETON  
SIL/TPU DIVISION  
4 OCTOBER 1993

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

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (B)  
MR STEPHENS [1 ]

JOINT DECLARATION INITIATIVE: PAUL GOODMAN, SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

In his minute of 30 September Jonathan Caine outlined the areas which Paul Goodman of the Sunday Telegraph wishes to cover in his interview with the Secretary of State in Blackpool on Wednesday. These questions focus on the Hume/Adams démarche and its implications for political development and you asked me to provide some lines to take. I attach a copy of the unclassified minute which I have copied to recipients of Mr Caine's original note.

2. The purpose of this separate advice, which I have discussed with Mr Thomas, is to provide a separate aide mémoire to some key points of Joint Declaration theology which it is not possible to rehearse elsewhere.

Self-Determination

3. It is apparent from our own analysis of the Joint Declaration text we have, and from comments in the past few days from journalists and directly from the Provisionals, that references to self-determination and its exercise will be central to finding a

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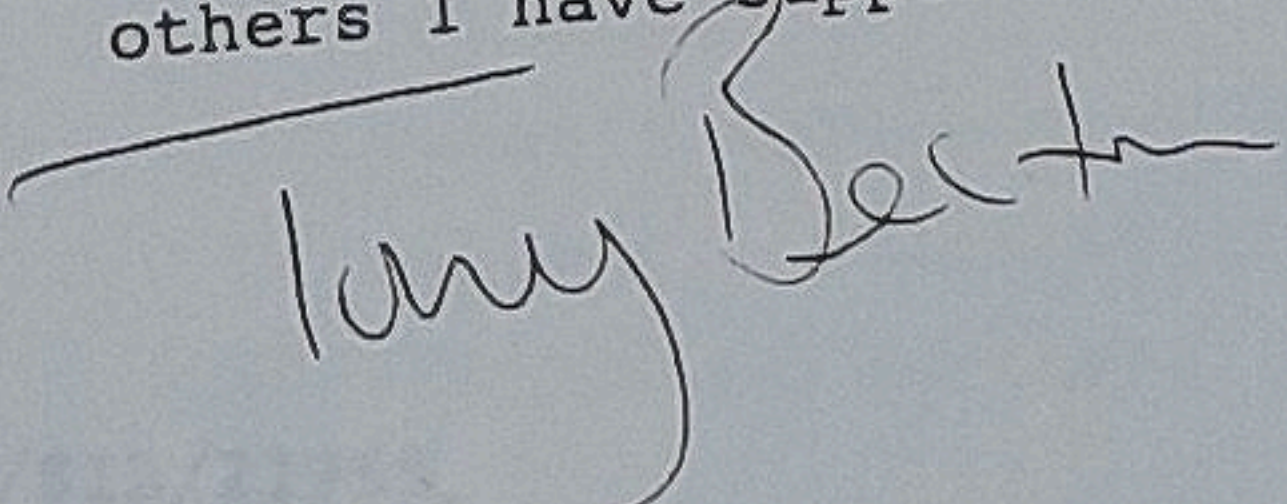
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formula which could persuade the Provisionals to abandon their armed campaign. It will not be easy to achieve a formula acceptable to ourselves, the Irish Government and all sections of the community in Northern Ireland, but we have concluded so far that the effort is one worth making. Given that background it is important to avoid, if at all possible, being drawn into any public pronouncement on self-determination as such. If pressed on this point the Secretary of State might simply repeat the familiar - but powerful - line that there can be no change in the constitutional status of Northern Ireland as part of the United Kingdom unless a majority of the people of Northern Ireland wish it. In response to any further supplementaries the question could be turned by stressing that the issue is one of consent whatever terminology you choose to use.

How much do we know?

4. The other potentially difficult area arises if the Secretary of State is probed about the extent of our previous knowledge of the Hume/Adams talks. There has been a public acknowledgement that John Hume told the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State at their recent meeting in Downing Street that he regarded his talks with Mr Adams as the best chance for peace he has known for the past 20 years, and it has also been apparent from Hume/Adams' joint statements that principles - including self-determination - were being discussed. The Irish Government line that the Taoiseach will receive a briefing from Mr Hume this week will allow the Secretary of State to repeat that should they (the Irish Government) then believe that there are proposals that they would wish to make to us we would of course study them. Clearly at this stage it is impossible to say what those proposals might be.

5. These lines, without the inwardnesses, are reproduced with the others I have supplied for the interview.

  
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