

SECRET AND PERSONAL



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

12 November 1993

cc Michael Ancram

PS/PUS (L)

Mr Thomas

Mr Beverell

Mr Cooke

Mr Rickard

Mr Beeton

Mr May

Comments
ASAP
please.

JAS.

12/11

Dear Jonathan,

NORTHERN IRELAND

The Prime Minister has read overnight your three letters of 11 November enclosing draft passages for the Lord Mayor's Banquet Speech, a draft letter to the Taoiseach, and the record of your Secretary-of State's telephone conversation with Mr Spring. He has also read carefully Quentin Thomas's submission of 11 November and the attached record of the Butler/Nally meeting. He was very grateful to the NIO for producing all of this material so rapidly.

The Prime Minister is, of course, concerned at the retreat in the Irish Government's position which is evident from these papers and from the Taoiseach's letter. The Butler/Nally talks (para 15), rather like Cardinal Daly's line with the Prime Minister yesterday afternoon, show clearly how the Hume/Adams dialogue has become a serious impediment to peace, and is exerting huge pressure on the Irish Government.

We shall need to hold a meeting on this next week. The Prime Minister thinks that we shall need seriously to consider the idea of tabling a British draft of the Joint Declaration (floated in paragraph 4 of Quentin Thomas's submission). He would find it helpful to see a draft in his weekend box, if you are able to send me one later today.

I enclose a revised version of the draft reply to the Taoiseach. I should be grateful for comments on it (manuscript amendments in the margin perfectly acceptable) by 1300 today if at all possible. I hope that the Prime Minister will be able to sign the letter in the early afternoon. He wants to get it to Reynolds as quickly as possible.

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I also enclose a revised passage for the Lord Mayor's Banquet Speech. The Prime Minister was extremely grateful to Sir Patrick Mayhew and Mr Ancram for the trouble that they have taken personally over this. He has adjusted the text in the light of your Secretary of State's advice, passed to me by telephone after dinner last night. **Could I please have comments on this text (manuscript if preferred) by fax by 1400 or sooner?**

I am copying this letter and its enclosures to John Sawers (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and to Melanie Leech (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,

Roderic

RODERIC LYNE

Jonathan Stephens Esq
Northern Ireland Office