



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

25 November 1993

I should be grateful if Sir Robin Butler (Northern Ireland Office), John Savers (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Jeremy Heywood (H.M. Treasury), Joan M... and John Pitt-Brooke (Ministry of Defense).

cc PS/Sof S(B)
 PS/Michael Ancram (LtB)
 PS/PJS (L)
 PS/Mr Fell
 Mr Thomas
 Mr Cooke
 Mr Rickard
 Mr Beeton
 Mr May

MISS MELANIE LEECH
 CABINET OFFICE

NORTHERN IRELAND: CABINET SECRETARY'S VISIT TO DUBLIN

Copies of this minute should not be distributed beyond Private Offices, and it should be handled on a strict need to know basis.

I understand that it has now been confirmed that Sir Robin Butler will go to Dublin on 26 November to present the British draft of a joint statement to the Taoiseach.

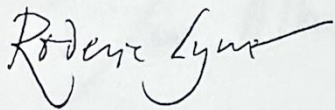
I enclose a letter from the Prime Minister to the Taoiseach for delivery by Sir Robin. The Prime Minister thought that we should expose less surface than was in the draft attached to Jonathan Stephens' letter of 23 November. The text has been redrafted accordingly.

For similar reasons, the Prime Minister would like paragraphs 6 and 7 of Sir Robin's speaking notes to be adjusted. The last sentence of paragraph 6 should be deleted. So should the second sentence of paragraph 7. The first sentence of paragraph 7 might be replaced by the following:

"The British Government cannot put itself in the position of negotiating with the Provisional IRA, whether directly or through intermediaries. This would contradict categorical assurances repeatedly given in the House of Commons by Ministers. The text I am giving you, therefore, is for discussion between our two Governments - just as we have previously held discussions about the joint declaration."

I should be grateful if Sir Robin Butler could give copies of these papers to H.M. Ambassador at Dublin.

I am sending copies of this minute and of its enclosure to Jonathan Stephens (Northern Ireland Office), John Sawers (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Jeremy Heywood (H.M. Treasury), Joan MacNaughton (Home Office) and John Pitt-Brooke (Ministry of Defence).



RODERIC LYNE
25 November 1993