

FROM: TONY BEETON
TALKS PLANNING UNIT
8 DECEMBER 1993

cc PS/Michael Ancram (L) [2] - B
PS/PUS (L) [3] - B
PS/Mr Fell [4] - B
Mr Thomas [5] - B
Mr Bell [6] - B
Mr Deverell [7] - B
Mr Rickard [8] - B
Mr Brooker [9] - B
Mr Cooke [10] - B
Mr Maccabe [11] - B
Mr May [12] - B
File [13]
(without Annexes B and C)

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (L) [1] - B

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MR MOLYNEAUX

The attached letter to Roderic Lyne has been drafted for you to send on the assumption that the Prime Minister will wish to act on the Secretary of State's recommendation that he should see Mr Molyneaux personally to brief him about the latest position on the Joint Declaration following the Ministerial meeting tomorrow morning.

2. The letter, which covers a brief speaking note for the Prime Minister and alternative copies (with and without underlinings) of the latest draft (JD15) suggests that the Prime Minister seek to maintain Mr Molyneaux's acquiescence, if not his endorsement, for the Joint Declaration, while making it clear that it is the Government's intention now to make the Declaration. The draft suggests that the Prime Minister demonstrates to Mr Molyneaux the improvements that had been made - with his help - to the current draft and explain his view that there would be considerable political advantages to be drawn from making the Declaration even if it failed to bring about an immediate cessation of violence by the Provisionals.

SECRET AND PERSONAL

SC/SIL/22448

3. In view of Mr Molyneaux's current state of mind it also suggests that the Prime Minister tells Mr Molyneaux, as a balancing gesture, that the Government intends to make clear before Christmas that it will invite the House in the New Year to agree to establish a Northern Ireland Select Committee. It also underlines the Government's view that an internal settlement based on Strand One alone would not be able to command the wide support which it would have to have to succeed. Instead, Mr Molyneaux's reluctance to move beyond Strand One issues now is understood, but the need to progress to Strand 2 when the time is right is made clear.

Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A

FOR SIGNATURE BY: PS/SECRETARY OF STATE

JOINT DECLARATION: PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MR MOLYNEAUX

I understand that the Prime Minister intends to speak to Mr Molyneaux (probably after Cabinet) following the Ministerial meeting tomorrow morning. I attach at Annex A a speaking note for the Prime Minister to use in that meeting and two copies of the

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OAB EXT 6564

Joint Declaration (JD15) at Annexes B and C. The Prime Minister will wish to show Mr Molyneaux this latest text, but there is a judgement to be made about how far we should direct Mr Molyneaux's attention towards the specific amendments, both Irish and British, which are underlined in the version at Annex B. If he judges it best he could use the document at Annex C which has the underlinings removed, but which