

SECRET

22

From: **Quentin Thomas**
(NIO)
Date: **12 December 1993**

4

PRIME MINISTER

cc John Sawers (FCO)
Jonathan Stephens (NIO)
Melanie Leech (CO)

JDI

- 1 Since dictating my earlier note I have spoken to my Secretary of State. ✓
- 2 He discussed the relevant sentence yesterday with the Attorney General. ✓
In the light of that he strongly agrees that we should not break on this sentence.
- 3 He suggests that if you do want to try alternatives to "as of right" the words "properly" or "legitimately" would do. As I told him, I myself doubt if these would take the trick theologically. ✓
- 4 If all else fails my Secretary of State suggests we should accept the sentence in the form it emerged from the Butler/Nally group that is:

"They accept that such agreement may, as of right, take the form of agreed structures for the island as a whole, including a sovereign united Ireland."

(We might get out "sovereign" which now occurs at the beginning of the paragraph, but that is a small point.)

QUENTIN THOMAS

NJD1.sm

SECRET