

FROM: PUS
5 FEBRUARY 1991

The Most Rev Dr R H A Eames
Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland
See House
Cathedral Close
ARMAGH

cc. PS/Secretary of State (L) [1]
Mr Pilling [2]
Mr Deverell - B [3]

The Most Rev Dr Cahal B Daly
Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland
Ara Coeli
Cathedral Road
ARMAGH

I have seen the letter which you and Archbishop [Daly] [Eames] have sent to me. I know that you will appreciate that it would be difficult for me to arrange a meeting with the Prime Minister just at present though that may well be possible in the not too distant future. However, I personally would like to meet you and Archbishop [Daly] [Eames] as soon as convenient. At this stage I would prefer to confine the meeting to one which involved only Archbishop [Daly] [Eames] and yourself.

I will ask Danny McNeill to contact you shortly and if you are content with these arrangements he can arrange a convenient date and time.

I have written in similar terms to Archbishop [Daly] [Eames].

up-to-date on developments, and to enquire whether major decisions on British policy towards the Provisionals seemed imminent. On that score, I said I thought the likeliest factor to precipitate a crisis would have been a unilateral call by the Irish Government (or just conceivably John Hume) for a joint declaration by the two governments. Given what the Taoiseach had said at his meeting with the Secretary of State last week, that seemed highly unlikely. However, a sudden and final breakdown on the open political development process could also precipitate a crisis, and that could come if the Unionist parties decided to walk away from the process over the next few weeks because of Irish intransigence.

4. I also mentioned the mounting frustration of some of the Church intermediaries, though this was secondary. Easter with the 75th anniversary of 1916 (in April that year) was an event to be