

SECRET AND PERSONAL



FROM: PUS  
29 JANUARY 1991

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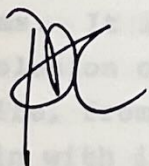
cc. Mr Pilling [2]  
Mr Deverell - B [3]

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE [1]

POLITICAL MOVEMENT AND THE PROVISIONALS - DRAFT MINUTE TO THE  
PRIME MINISTER

Intelligence reporting through the JIC (of which the Prime Minister will now be aware), the prospect of a message from the Taoiseach during Thursday's IGC, and continuing press speculation about a possible ceasefire by the Provisionals would make it timely for the Secretary of State to give the Prime Minister an initial report and assessment this week. I attach a draft. It is quite lengthy, but I see little point in a very short minute now promising a fuller assessment after the IGC and the Sinn Feinn Ard Fheis on 1-3 February (though we shall need to consider a further response in the light of those events).

2. The draft could either go to the Prime Minister alone, which for a first minute on this subject might be desirable to give the Prime Minister the opportunity to decide whom to bring in; or it could go to the Foreign, Home and Defence Secretaries. I think it is questionable whether the Attorney-General needs to be brought in at the outset. Sir Robin Butler should get a copy in any event.
3. I am submitting at the same time a draft reply to go to Mr David Trimble's recent letter to the Prime Minister following his question about NIO contacts with Sinn Fein/PIRA (attached).
4. If the Secretary of State wishes to discuss these drafts, I am of course available.



J A CHILCOT

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