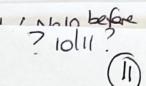
SECRET AND PERSONAL TOM: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY





NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE WHITEHALL LONDON SWIA 2AZ

Roderic Lyne Esq CMG Private Secretary to the 10 Downing Street ing you a line, I am dailighted that we were able London November 1993

the Joint Statement which we issued on 29 October and in our

private talk. I am sure that we should continue to keep in very DRAFT LETTER TO THE TAOISEACH When we most mext somethy we will

need to demonstrate how we are following up the Joint Statement. In my separate letter to you today about the Prime Minister's Mansion House speech, I set out the two main areas of activity in carrying the talks process forward in the next few weeks. The first was further dialogue with the Northern Ireland parties, which Michael Ancram is carrying forward. The second is with the Irish Government, and we judge that the time has now come for the Prime Minister to emphasise the importance of this in a letter to the Taoiseach. a intensify their efforts to find a basis for new Talks.

We agreed that the two Governments would continue their This is given added weight by yesterday's meeting between Sir Robin Butler and Mr Nally, an account of which you have already received. At this meeting, the Irish side again failed to produce their long-promised response to our joint framework document of 24 September and made it clear that if we could not work with them on the Taoiseach's "peace process", they would not take forward the talks process.

With the aim of reminding the Taoiseach of his commitment at Brussels to take forward the talks process, I attach a draft letter for the Prime Minister to send to him. The Ambassador, who is generally in the picture, might be invited to deliver it. The same and the same

A copy goes to John Sawers and Melanie Leach.

JONATHAN STEPHENS SECRET AND PERSONAL