

## 10 DOWNING STREET LONDON SW1A 2AA

IRELAND OF THE 23 DEC. 1833

THE PRIME MINISTER

for hour,

20 December 1993

PS SOS L, B,

PS / Michel Ancom L,

PS / PUS (L,B)

PS / Mr Fell

Mr Momms

Mr Nell

Mr Williams

Mr Wood (L,B)

You delivered letters to me on 10 December in Brussels, where I was meeting the Irish Prime Minister, and on 15 December at Downing Street, during the meeting at which Albert Reynolds and I agreed on the Joint Declaration.

Mr Mause Mr Beeton Mr Spoker.

You took issue with Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish Constitution. So do I. This is but one of many good reasons why we should hold discussions with the Irish Government.

Your letter of 15 December was written and publicised before

Mr Reynolds and I had issued the Joint Declaration. Unimpeded by facts, you chose to criticise the Declaration in extreme terms before you had even had a chance to read it.

It would be helpful if you could read the Declaration now. If you do so, you will find that your claims are wholly unjustified. To take but one example from your letter, it is entirely untrue that I have given the Irish Government "joint jurisdiction ... over part of Her Majesty's dominions". You will find nothing in the Joint Declaration to substantiate your statement.

I hope that, when you and your colleagues have had the opportunity to consider the Joint Declaration with the care it deserves, you will take a different view of it.

On Westpesday we supplied the Prime Minister with an

during his press conference and statement in the Souse. Seconds

office. I shought that it might be useful to rectify that today -

VERNETURE OF THE PUREL PRINTS (JUL 20)

The Reverend Dr Ian R K Paisley MP

MARINE PERSONALISM STATE

17 DECEMBER 1991