CONFIDENTIAL

FROM: Q J THOMAS, DUS(L) 8 November 1993

Mr Watkins

CC PS/PUS (L&B)

PS/Mr Fell Mr Bell

Mr Williams

Mr Cooke

Mr Brooker

Mr Maccabe

Mr Kyle

Mr Quinn

Mr Morrow Mr Archer, RID

HMA, Dublin

Jognis Corlye Miselin 7) = : Di Comeron

does it begin

LIAISON GROUP

Thank you for your minute of 5 November about this. I have suggested that we pencil in the date of 12 November for a meeting of the Liaison Group. But I have also made it clear to Mr O hUiginn that we would want to go ahead with this only if we had received the Irish paper in good time. In practice, even if we do receive the paper on Tuesday as Mr O hUiginn indicated he hoped, we might not be ready by Friday for the reasons you mention. It will be open to us to postpone the meeting (or, more properly, to decline to confirm the date) on the basis that in view of the disappointing nature of the paper, and the fundamental rift which it exposes, we need more time to reflect on it.

two or three meetings when we esset this poeture, so extractive

2. On the other hand it would be good if we could produce a sensible Joint Framework Document at least by the time the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach meet again, perhaps on 3 December. And in any event I hope we can maintain our posture of being purposive and capable of despatching the business effectively purposive and capable of despatching the business effectively and at speed. We may face a dilemma between postponing the meeting or going ahead with it, even though on the basis that we would approach it not as a drafting session but as one where we would have a "second reading debate". Indeed, even as I say

CONFIDENTIAL

DUSL/SMJ/43058

CONFIDENTIAL

this, I think I begin to relish the idea of a session where we decline to engage in drafting but put them, and their text, to the question. Despite what the Secretary of State has kindly said about Mr Spring's principle 4 I am not sure I shall be able to resist a certain teasing on the discrepancy between that, what is in article 1 of the Agreement and what, if anything, is left of all this in the paper we are handed.

3. The Irish side has after all had the luxury of considering and discussing our paper while declining to enter drafting, save on the preliminary passages, for some weeks. We might even have two or three meetings when we adopt this posture, so attractive does it begin to seem ...

Mr. Barrour's hore dated 4 Movember of the Delegation Gentling at

went on that the paper as previously drafted had needed to be

It is or toproved salesquently commented that Mr Mensorgh was

wast age by pricing the facineach's specthes, and Mr Finley the

Translate's. (I did not tell him that we had elready quessed this.)

se teste it clear that ar o holgian was not enjoying being simply

secretices to give rapid clearence to tests produced by political

th sachange with Mr O'Donovan on 4 November, elect the next (Signed QJT) weetal to have a little more detail than is put late garegraph to of

8 November 1993 OAB 6447 Movember, at the usual time. When I mentioned the paper, he said that it was all a matter of getting political clearance for it, se

CONFIDENTIAL