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Mr Aylett
News Department

TAOISEACH'S REMARKS TO THE IRISH ASSOCIATION ON 10 JANUARY

1. We have passed you the text of the Taoiseach's remarks last night and I have discussed these with the Ambassador, the Northern Ireland Office and the No. 10 Press Office.

2. All are agreed that it is important to avoid suggesting any gap between the two governments. The line which we have suggested to No. 10 for their 11 a.m. press briefing is that we agree with the Taoiseach that there is no question of re-negotiating the Downing Street statement, that we welcome his further call for an end to violence, for an early start of new political talks and also the reassurance which the Irish Government has provided to all sides. We have no difficulty with anything which the Taoiseach has said in restating as he did last night the main themes of the Downing Street statement. We for our part believe that the statement speaks for itself.

G R Archer
Republic of Ireland Department
W139
270-2358

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