



JEN/L/11/52/47863

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Michael Ancram

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Mr Thomas

Mr Devereil

Mr Cooke

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Mr Beeton

17 November 1993

Dear Roderic,

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH ARCHBISHOP EAMES

The Prime Minister is to meet Archbishop Eames tomorrow. My Secretary of State will also be present at the meeting.

Objectives

Following his meeting with my Secretary of State at Hillsborough on 13 November, Archbishop Eames undertook to talk to the Taoiseach again about the latest draft of the Joint Declaration and then to report back to us. He also indicated at that meeting that he would be happy to sound out Mr Molyneux if and when we considered the time right. The principal purpose of the Prime Minister's meeting, therefore, will be to listen to Archbishop Eames' report of his further conversation with the Taoiseach and to hear his assessment of the likely prospects for the Joint Declaration Initiative.

Fresh text

As I reported in my minute earlier today, the Archbishop telephoned me with some advance information. He had secured the Taoiseach's agreement to some amendments to JD13 and would bring a revised text (JD14) with him tomorrow. Analysis of these amendments suggests there has been no really significant shift by the Taoiseach, and that Dr Eames has not fully grasped the significance of an expression of the constitutional guarantee.

Archbishop's contact with Mr Molyneaux

The Prime Minister will want to probe the extent of Dr Eames' contacts with Mr Molyneaux. Last Saturday the Archbishop told Sir Patrick that he had deliberately distanced himself from Mr Molyneaux and not discussed the text with anyone else. But the Taoiseach seems to believe, as he said in his letter of 15 November to the Prime Minister, that the Archbishop (and John Alderdice) had brought messages from Molyneaux saying that while Molyneaux could not publicly support the JDI he would not oppose it either. Dr Eames is also aware that we showed Mr Molyneaux a copy of the previous version (JD12) and he may have revealed that to the Taoiseach.

UK draft

As far as future prospects are concerned the Prime Minister may wish to show the draft text of a Joint Statement to be made at the Dublin Summit (a revised version incorporating changes agreed at today's meeting will follow in the morning) seeking his judgement on whether it might represent a way forward more likely to secure the support, or at least acceptance, of the Protestant community in Northern Ireland.

Future contacts

The further active engagement of the Archbishop is unlikely to add much value to the initiative, and the Prime Minister might wish to thank him for his engagement in the initiative so far and leave him parked, still onside but inactive.

I attach some points to make for the Prime Minister. Copies of this letter go to John Sawers and Melanie Leech.

Yours,

Jonathan

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