

SECRET AND PERSONAL

POINTS TO MAKE

Political

1. The two Governments were right to test the Joint Declaration idea. You have taken the strain. Very grateful for that.
2. You have now tested the text on Archbishop Eames. Still judge that, after the Hume/Adams statement of 25 September, result would be loyalist backlash which would undermine any PIRA cessation.
3. Shankill reinforces this judgement. Grateful for your, and Dick Spring's, public comments, and your sensitivity in offering to postpone the IGC. I cannot do anything which might undermine steps we are taking to minimise loyalist revenge attacks, and damp down retaliatory cycle of violence.
4. As Sir Robin Butler said, none of this means we have lost interest in encouraging the Provisionals to give up violence. Ready to continue the dialogue with you on the means of doing so. We have stated a number of key principles in public - eg in Patrick Mayhew's Coleraine speech last December.
5. We need to decouple this from the Hume/Adams dialogue. Damaging that elements of the JD were speculated about in that context, and that JD would have been seen, however wrongly, to spring from that.
6. Must be no daylight, still less recriminations, between the two Governments over Hume/Adams. Need to sustain John Hume's position as leader of Northern Ireland constitutional nationalism. Patrick Mayhew threw him a lifeline in the Commons on Monday by saluting his courage.

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7. Cannot leave Hume/Adams hanging. Hume said again on 26 October that he awaits response from two Governments. You have taken strain by saying you have not reported outcome to us. I can help you shoulder this if we say that you have today given an account of the outcome to me, in the light of your assessment, and that we have in consequence together affirmed a number of points. Would you be content with a Joint Statement on these lines?
[attached]

8. Need as part of this to renew impetus of Talks process. Being strongly urged at Westminster. Provides a possible soft landing for Hume. Can encompass continuing work between the two Governments on the right framework, as well as dialogue with a view to multilateral negotiations with the parties. Grateful for your Bodestown speech of 17 October, which included your description of Talks process as "vital".

9. [Defensive] As foreshadowed in the Butler/Nally Group, I thought it right to brief Molyneaux on Privy Council terms about the JD, since his public comments reflected misunderstandings, such as that British withdrawal would be demanded. Did not accord him any veto, and do not base my assessment of reactions to JD simply on his views.

10. [Defensive] Northern Ireland Select Committee a matter initially for the Commons Procedure Committee, and subsequently the House. Not fruit of deal - there was no deal. Strong case in favour on merits. Would not pre-empt, because separate from, any Talks settlement; and would not give one section of the community an advantage over the other.

Security

11. Chief Constable has increased RUC deployments, and moved to 12 hour shifts, post Shankill.

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12. Practical RUC/Garda co-operation excellent. But need, post-Shankill, to show that our security co-operation is not only good but capable of development.

13. In June we commissioned a report on current security co-operation issues from the Chilcot/Dalton Group. Look forward to discussing this with you at our next full bilateral.

27 October 1993

John Adams

*Mr Thomas
Mr Cooke
Mr Beeton*

HUMAN RIGHTS AND MEETING WITH THE TAOISEACH,
29 OCTOBER

I have briefed the Prime Minister on your Secretary of State's telephone call last night, and my parallel discussion with Sir Robin Butler.

Subject to your further views, the Prime Minister would like to write today to Albert Reynolds to propose arrangements for a meeting in Brussels on Friday. I enclose a decision draft, to which you will wish to add. I should be grateful if you could send me a revised version this afternoon, as early as possible.

Part of the exercise with the Irish Government will be to try to develop a line for the two sides to take after the Friday meeting.

The Prime Minister would also like to have, as soon as possible and not later than 1700 today, a question and answer brief on Human Rights which deals very carefully with the points raised by Sir Patrick Mayhew in our telephone conversation. John Hume's interview in today's Independent has given a further spin to the story. The brief must be consistent with the line taken in Parliament and in various interviews by the Prime Minister and your Secretary of State over the past few days. It would be helpful if you could attach to it some of the key statements which they have made.

The brief will need to respond to John Hume's statement that 'I ... am anxious to expect a very positive examination of what they [the British Government] already know. I am available to meet them at any time if they require clarification.'