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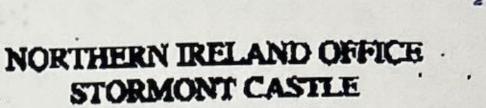
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BILATERAL WITH TAOISBACH

The Secretary of State was interested to read your letter to me of 24 June reporting on the Prime Minister's bilateral with the Taoiseach in the margins of the Florence European Council on 22 June.

He was pleased by, and sees real value in the underlying rapport in the relationship between the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach displayed in your letter. He believes that a similar relationship now exist between the Tanaiste and himself, although the Tanaiste is a more morose, complex and taciturn character.

The Secretary of State has noted the thoughts expressed by the Taoiseach on the mature of a final settlement. While he believes that they deserve development it is of paramount importance that no hint should fuel unionist suspicions of a deal being stitched up for 'imposition' by the two Governments ... We will obviously give some thought to this topic, possibly drawing on work that was carried out in the aftermath of the Framework Documents but it will need to take account of this particular sensitivity.

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I have copied this to William Ehrman (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Jan Polley (Cabinet Office) and Veronica Sutherland (Dublin).

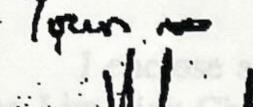
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