


CONFIDENTIAL

From: John Holmes
Date: 12 March 1997

PRIME MINISTER**TELEPHONE CALL TO THE TAOISEACH**

This is now confirmed for 1630 tomorrow. There was an IGC in Dublin today. It was apparently routine and very friendly, with no major points of contention. The Irish were pleased about the successful soft landing and accepted that nothing could now happen until 3 June. They did not bang on about Sinn Fein's entry or press for us to say they would be admitted on 3 June if there was a proper ceasefire now. (Hume has not yet written his letter with the questions in – he may be nervous about doing so, for reasons not yet clear.)

The word is still that the Taoiseach has no particular points he wants to raise, apart from touching base. But he may just float the idea of a new initiative over the heads of the parties at some stage. Bloody Sunday, parades and Roisin McAliskey all came up at the IGC but in relatively low key. I doubt the Taoiseach will mention any of them on the telephone (Paddy Teahon raised McAliskey with me), but I have included brief points just in case.

You will want to agree with the Taoiseach what, if anything, should be said to the press about the call. I would suggest that the fact of it should not be concealed. If necessary, both sides should say views were exchanged about the current state of the peace process in a good atmosphere, with both looking forward to a resumption of the talks on 3 June.



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