

Ref: BO.2289

*file 25/5.*

MR HOLMES

cc Ms Polley  
Mr Sanderson  
Mr Lamont (FCO)

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE IRISH AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS

1. We have now agreed with the Taoiseach's office the attached joint statement. Since you last saw the text:

- a. the Irish have agreed to delete the second paragraph (but see also para 2 below);
- b. we have deleted the last 6 words of the penultimate paragraph (because they were redundant);
- c. we have corrected the date in the last paragraph.

2. Simon Hare, my interlocutor in Wally Kirwan's absence on holiday, added that Paddy Teahon still wants a Framework-type reference in the covering text which you and he are discussing, and will return to the charge with you on that. I attach your copy of the original Irish draft joint statement: the language they want is in the passage you square bracketed in paragraph 2. I have already tried on them the change you suggested in manuscript, which they consider inadequate. If Teahon goes on pressing, you will want to bear in mind the comments in the NIO's letter to me of 16 May (below): in particular, we should avoid a generalised reference to "Ireland".

*Colin Budd*

COLIN BUDD

22 May 1997