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From Tony Beeton
19 June 1997

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PS/SECRETARY OF STATE

File
20/6.

cc PS/Mr Murphy
PS/Mr Ingram
PS/PUS
PS/Sir David Fell
Mr Thomas
Mr Steele
Mr Ray
Mr Stephens
Mr Bell
Mr Leach
Mr Watkins
Mr Hill
Mr Brooker
Mr Maccabe
Mr Warner
Mr Holmes, N° 10
Mr Budd, CabO

TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH SINN FEIN

I took a telephone call from Siobhan O'Hanlon shortly before 11.30 this morning. She referred to the front page story in today's *Irish Times* about the possibility of a statement by the Prime Minister (including a reference to the aide-mémoire). She explained that Gerry Adams was likely to be contacted by the press at an outside engagement later this morning and had asked her to call to see whether these stories were correct. She emphasised that their intention was not 'to make a bad situation worse'.

I agreed that the situation was a bad one and told her that I believed Quentin Thomas had made our position very clear to Martin McGuinness on the telephone earlier in the week. I had nothing to add to that, but I would naturally report our conversation and the concern she had expressed. She asked me again whether I knew anything about the proposed statement. I said I had nothing to add. She asked whether I would get back to her, and again I said I would report our conversation and confirmed that I knew how to contact her if I needed to.

I reported these exchanges to Quentin Thomas immediately. He suggested that it would not be right to revert to O'Hanlon whatever the final decision on a statement might be.

signed
Tony Beeton

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