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P.2/2

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## Rights &amp; European Division

From Tony Beeton  
19 June 1997

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File  
20/6.cc PS/Mr Murphy  
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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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