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SECRET AND PERSONAL
FROM: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

c - JP



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I think these drafts are on the right lines. I have suggested shortening the letters to Clinton and Burton. I could also shorten

the Aide memoire further if you want. 567

If you are generally content, I will produce versions for you to sign tomorrow.

10 June 1997

Dear John,

NORTHERN IRELAND: THE NEXT STEPS

It was decided at this morning's meeting that the draft letter from Quentin Thomas to Martin McGuinness should be revised to make it more brisk and business-like, more in the nature of an aide memoire. This we have now done; the draft is attached.

It is a key part of the gameplan that the aide memoire is sent to the Irish and Americans before we send it to Sinn Fein. As indicated before, we assume that the Prime Minister would want to write to the President and Taoiseach himself. I attach revised drafts, amended to take account of today's meeting. You will notice that in the letter to the Taoiseach we have included a reference to decommissioning; there would seem to be considerable merit in using the letter to encourage the Taoiseach towards agreeing a joint approach at the earliest possible moment.

A copy goes to Jan Polley in Sir Robin Butler's office.

Yours ever,

Ken

W K LINDSAY

SOFS/30702/LB

See letters not,

*R-4
John 12/6.*

*Let me
look at this
tomorrow*

John 18/6