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From the Principal Private Secretary

22 February 1998

*Joe Kern*

SINN FEIN

I spoke to Paddy Teahon a couple of times over the weekend to check Irish views of the Moira bomb and other developments.

On Moira, he said the Irish system shared our suspicion that it was the work of Continuity IRA, although it was too soon to conclude this definitely. He said that the number plate of the car was apparently from the South.

Teahon added that there were suggestions that Conway, whose body had been found last Thursday, had been killed by North Armagh PIRA for drug reasons. But he had no confirmation of that. He implied that the Irish at least would continue to take a different view of drugs-related killings from other kinds of paramilitary violence.

He confirmed that the Taoiseach would meet Adams on Tuesday or Wednesday. As far as a meeting with the Prime Minister was concerned, he agreed with our approach of keeping options open for the time being.

Finally, he said that the Taoiseach would be making contact with Trimble again early this week, with a view to a further meeting. I welcomed this.

We agreed that the meeting between the Prime Minister and Taoiseach on Thursday was well timed to compare notes on the way forward, substantively and procedurally.

I am copying this to John Grant (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Jan Polley (Cabinet Office), Sir Christopher Meyer (Washington) and Veronica Sutherland (Dublin).

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