

Secretary, Mr. Wall ^{Kenar}
 Mr. Callin ^{Is any further action}
 S.H. ^{is necessary to be attached at this}
 stage? ²⁴
 13/12

Paddy Teulon

In the context of my visit to Lisbon,
 and possible meeting with the British P.M.,
 I have read the accounts of official
 conversations with Sun Feen, discussions with
 Peter Bell in Belfast and with Alr Jim
 Canning, who expressed concern that the Government
 has been ~~been~~ become compromised by Sun Feen.

The overwhelming impression
 coming from the Sun Feen meeting is of
 these ^{studies} unwillingness to come forward with any
 indication of what the IRA might say in
 a ceasefire. The consistent and practised
 evasiveness when this question was repeatedly
 raised ^{by the official side} is deeply disquieting. It ~~shows~~ ^{suggests} that



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S.F./IRA. are not, in fact, in a political negotiating mode. Rather they appear to be ~~are~~ engaged in a tactical exercise to see what they can gain from a ceasefire, without making any strategic concession whatever — either material or even

Linguistic This would tend to give ground to Counselor
Cunning's fears.

I enclose a copy of a statement by Messrs. Denis Faul which shows clearly the need for Reassurance in any IRA statement. — Specially aspects marked (A).



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I doubt if I can
convince John Major to say
anything publicly about a date for
S.F. entry to talks without
movement by S.F. on the
disclosure of ~~the~~ ^{a draft} I.R.A. statement
that would give genuine reassurance.
An apology to victims, like in the
loyalist statement, would be particularly
relevant, but other things would be needed too.

It is possible that Major
might ^{be persuaded to} convey a private message, on



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a contingent basis about ^{late} January
entry, depending on the nature
of the IRA statement and
the fulfillment of the conditions
set out in ~~his letter~~ Major's
paper lodged in the House
of Commons.

Please come back to
me on this matter. You are
free to show this to Seán and Tim.