

RESTRICTED

**FROM:** Mrs V E Sutherland, HMA Dublin  
**DATE:** 16 March 1998  
  
**cc:** PS/SofS, NIO  
Ms Jan Polley, Cabinet Office  
Mr Nick Sanderson, Cabinet Office

Top ✓  
KJ  
27/3  
PB  
AC

Mr John Holmes, PS/No.10

**CONVERSATION WITH PADDY TEAHON**

1. I have read with interest your letters of 11 and 13 March recording conversations with Paddy Teahon.
2. I also had a word with Paddy over the weekend, very much along the lines of your own exchanges. Paddy emphasised above all current Irish doubts about Unionist intentions, particularly on constitutional issues. He quoted James Hamilton of the Attorney General's office, who had been present at the most recent meeting with the Unionists, as being particularly despondent, claiming that Unionist suggestions were not in the real world and indeed in bad taste. I will try and have a word with Hamilton myself, to probe further.
3. For the rest, Paddy agreed that the 11 areas outlined in your earlier letter (identical to the ones he had outlined to me shortly before your meeting) were the core of the end game. We talked a little about this, but I was reassured that I could detect no different nuances from your account. On past form this is in itself reassuring.
4. Incidentally, I am intrigued that you and Paddy may speak today. He told me he was off to Cheltenham for the week - no doubt along with that half of the Irish Cabinet which is not in the US.

*(SIGNED)*

Veronica Sutherland  
Ambassador

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