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From: John Holmes
Date: 28 March 1998

PRIME MINISTER

NORTHERN IRELAND

As promised, I attach revised versions of the text on Strand 1 and North-South. I have tried to reflect the comments we have received from Trimble at different times, in writing and orally, and some of the ideas/language from the Irish draft text on North-South, as well as what Ahern said this morning.

I have not run these past the NIO experts, but they are gathering tomorrow morning and I will send the texts to them so that they can have a quick look and get back to me with comments/amendments. The idea would then be to have these available to discuss with Trimble and Donaldson at 1400.

Perhaps you can let me know tomorrow morning before midday if you have any immediate comments, so that these can again be incorporated. Sally will have the texts on her machine at Chequers.

These texts are obviously pretty Unionist-friendly, and the Irish/Nationalists will want to move them a good deal further in their direction but there is no harm in starting with texts of this kind, as long as it is made absolutely clear to Trimble that these are starting points, which will then have to be negotiated with the other side.

Sally
PP JOHN HOLMES

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