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6 May 1993

The Right Honourable John Major, M.P.,
Prime Minister.

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 27 April concerning the three-strand talks process. I very much appreciate your kind words regarding the Irish Government's efforts to effect the early resumption of dialogue.

I share your view that we should aim at a political accommodation which covers the three relationships addressed in the last talks. I hope that it will be possible to resume the political talks and to conduct them in a spirit of openness and honesty with the overall aim of achieving peace.

I note the intention of Sir Patrick Mayhew to table proposals on behalf of your Government when the talks resume. It is my belief that the eventual success or otherwise of any resumed talks will in large measure be dependent upon the degree of co-ordination between our respective Governments. We therefore look forward to full and substantive consultation with your Government in the course of the preparation of the proposals referred to in your letter and on other aspects of the process which we have jointly instituted. The meetings of the Anglo-Irish Liaison Group and the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Conference will undoubtedly explore further the most effective means to secure the resumption of the three-strand dialogue and to lay the most solid basis for a successful outcome.

With kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

ALBERT REYNOLDS, T.D.

Taoiseach.

ROINN AN TAOISIGH

Uimhir.....

TO: Mr. O'Sullivan, ~~Mr. McCarthy~~ and Mr. Murray

FROM: Gerry Cribbin

*Draft recommended
5/5/93*

RE: Reply to letter from John Major

1. The Prime Minister's letter would appear to be a follow-up to Sir Patrick Mayhew's address to the Institute of Irish Studies. While some aspects of that speech were re-assuring to the Irish Government's viewpoint, other elements were overtly OUP oriented. Our views on Sir Patrick's address were conveyed to the British at the most recent meeting of the Anglo-Irish Liaison Group.
2. The success or failure of resumed talks will hinge in large part upon the proposed nature of the North-South relationship. The letter to Mr. Major therefore underlines the necessity for substantive consultation in the preparation of the proposals to be tabled by the British Government on the recommencement of talks.
3. The draft reply across has been cleared by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Gerry Cribbin
5 May, 1993

*D. F. A. H. M.,
Draft reply, cleared with D. F. A. H. M.;
recommended.
5/5/93*



British Embassy
Dublin

4 May 1993

Mr Colin Butler
Private Secretary to the Taoiseach
Government Buildings
Upper Merrion Street
DUBLIN 2

Dear Mr Butler,

I enclose the original letter from the Prime Minister which
HM Ambassador delivered personally to the Taoiseach last week.

Yours sincerely

J A Dew

J A Dew



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 April 1993

Dear Albert,

When I visited Northern Ireland before Easter, I was very strongly impressed by the desire, among everyone I met, for peace. I wanted to let you know that I am very grateful to both you and Dick Spring for all that you have done, and continue to do, to secure the resumption of the Northern Ireland talks process.

I firmly believe that the healing of communal divisions would be greatly assisted by the achievement of a lasting, widely acceptable political accommodation which respects both traditions and covers all three sets of relationships dealt with during the previous talks: relationships within Northern Ireland, relationships within the island of Ireland and the relationship between our two Governments.

We are working hard to persuade the parties to agree to further talks. Patrick has been giving some thought to ways of imparting focus and direction to the discussions. He believes it would be right to table some proposals on behalf of the British Government when the talks resume. What he has in mind would not be a detailed 'blueprint' but rather our judgment, drawing on what emerged from all three strands of the earlier talks, of what in the end might prove to be most generally acceptable to all participants.

I understand that Patrick has already mentioned this idea to the Tanaiste. We wish to ensure that we have the fullest understanding of the Irish position and will want to show our ideas to you privately in good time. We shall have to handle this with care, and guard against any perception that the document had been negotiated between us (which would, of course, be untrue). Any such impression would cause a sharp and damaging reaction from all Unionists, and would undermine our chances of resuming the talks. We would not table the resulting proposal until everyone is at the talks.

Patrick's speech to the Institute of Irish Studies in Liverpool on 23 April was a further effort to harness public opinion and set out the rationale for further talks. I hope that both our Governments can do something over the coming weeks to settle the exaggerated fears which persist on both sides.

Clearly much further work needs to be done if all this is to be taken forward successfully. I understand that our officials will be seeing each other at a regular Anglo-Irish Liaison Group meeting this week and that an IGC meeting has been arranged for next month, when Patrick and Dick can explore the best way of making progress.

Your Ever,
John

Mr Albert Reynolds TD