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FILE F/Taoiseach-KK



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

9 February 1994

**LETTER FROM THE TAOISEACH: MEETING WITH  
THE PRIME MINISTER**

I enclose the Taoiseach's reply of 8 February to the Prime Minister's letter of the 4th.

You will see that the Taoiseach makes a couple of substantive points about the talks process. There is no need for the Prime Minister to reply in writing. We shall obviously discuss this subject at the 19 February meeting.

I spoke to the Taoiseach's Private Secretary today. I agreed provisionally on the following arrangements for 19 February:

- 1015 approx (to be confirmed):  
Taoiseach to arrive at 10 Downing Street from The Ritz
- 1115 The Taoiseach's daughter, Miss Leone Reynolds, arrives at No. 10. Short tour of the building.
- 1130 Depart for Twickenham with police escort
- by 1215 Arrive Twickenham for RFU lunch (I understand that Prince Edward will be arriving at 1215).

I had previously understood that your Secretary of State wanted to meet separately with the Tanaiste. As you will see from his letter the Taoiseach has suggested that the Ministerial parties should meet together (although he stresses

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informality and the need to minimise the official presence). The Taoiseach will be accompanied by Martin Mansergh and Colm Butler (who from past form will not necessarily come into the meeting). There was no mention of officials accompanying the Tanaiste.

Is your Secretary of State content with these arrangements? Do you agree that a little over an hour would be the right length of the meeting?

I am copying this letter and enclosure by fax to David Blatherwick in Dublin.

**RODERIC LYNE**

Jonathan Stephens, Esq.,  
Northern Ireland Office.

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**Filed on:**

Oifig an Taoisigh  
Office of the Taoiseach

8 February, 1994.

The Rt. Hon. Mr. John Major, MP,  
Prime Minister.

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 4 February. I would look forward to an informal chat between the two of us on 19 February, and the Tánaiste and Sir Patrick Mayhew perhaps. However, I feel there should be no suggestion of a formal summit meeting, and the number of officials should be kept to a minimum. Perhaps Rod Lyne would get in contact with my Private Secretary Colm Butler about the arrangements.

I remain cautiously optimistic that the Joint Declaration has set a process in train that will lead sooner rather than later to a complete cessation of violence. While I realise that lethal attacks are continuing on the security forces, it is a source of some limited encouragement that there have been no fatalities from Republican sources so far this year, and only one since the Declaration.

We should be wary of behaving, as if we were writing off the chances of a positive response. There is very strong pressure here for peace, which has been reflected in public submissions to Sinn Féin's consultative commission hearings. There is also great pressure, arising from the American visit, on Adams not to disappoint the hopes of the many responsible political and

Oifig an Taoisigh  
Office of the Taoiseach

business figures from the President down who associated themselves with the visit. I do not believe we have in any sense lost the initiative for peace.

I accept that preparations should be put in train for a resumption of the talks process next month, if there is no positive response by then. I and the Tánaiste have asked our officials to update a draft framework document held over from last autumn, to take account of the new basis presented by our Joint Declaration.

While Sir Patrick Mayhew's checklist of areas to be covered is a useful one, our view would be that the resumed talks should be based on a framework agreed between the two Governments, commensurate with the depth achieved in the Declaration. The Tánaiste will, I understand, be putting to Sir Patrick Mayhew our views on these matters in more detail.

Yours sincerely,



Taoiseach.



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