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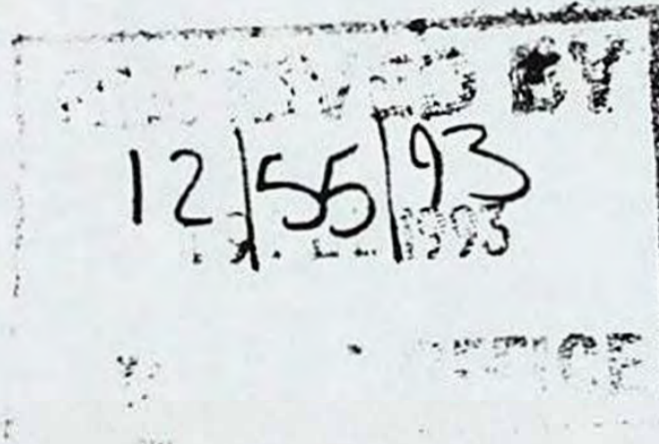


10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

18 February 1993

175



*Dear John,*

**NORTHERN IRELAND: US STATEMENT**

I talked to the National Security Adviser (Tony Lake) about Northern Ireland.

I explained the political sensitivity and said that it would be very helpful if any announcement could be made some time after the Prime Minister's visit. We also attached importance to any visit being a fact-finding visit.

Tony Lake said that he had already given instructions to the State Department that no announcement was to be made until after the Prime Minister's visit. He also took the point about the nature of the visit.

I subsequently spoke to Robin Renwick who told me that the State Department had agreed to the revised draft statement reflecting the points which Robin and I discussed this morning (copy enclosed).

I am copying this letter and enclosure to William Fittall (Northern Ireland Office) and Melanie Leech (Cabinet Office).

*John,  
Steph*

J. S. WALL

R. J. Sawers, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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(Our revise of the State Department draft)

Draft White House Press Statement

As an expression of his support for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and in the context of his support for the talks between the parties in Northern Ireland and the British and Irish governments, President Clinton has asked the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Thomas Foley, to undertake a fact finding mission. He has asked the Speaker to travel to Ireland and the United Kingdom to explore whether there are ways in which the United States can help. The Speaker has graciously accepted this responsibility and will visit the area at an early date. The Speaker will report his findings to the President.

In making this appointment, the President emphasized his desire for peace, justice and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. He praised the ongoing efforts to that end, in particular the International Fund for Ireland, which was established in large part due to the efforts of Speaker Foley's illustrious predecessor, The Honorable Thomas F. O'Neill. The President also stressed his conviction that while the United States could help in the search for a peaceful solution, the primary responsibility must rest with those directly involved.

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