

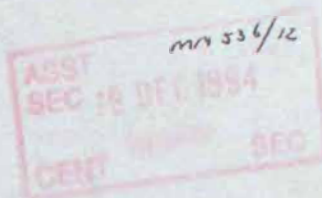
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277/94

From: D E S Blatherwick  
Date: 19 December 1994

Mr D Lamont, RID

cc: PS/SofS (L&B)  
PS/Michael Ancram (L&B)  
PS/PUS (L&B)  
PS/Mr Fell  
Mr Thomas  
Mr Legge  
Mr Bell  
Mr Williams  
Mr Watkins  
Mr Stephens  
Mrs Collins  
Mr Brooker  
Mr Maccabe



Mrs Kenny  
Mrs Taylor  
LD28/12

Mrs Sear, SIL

CONVERSATION WITH THE TANAISTE, 16 DECEMBER

1. My telgram no. 472 of 16 December reported part of my conversation with the Tanaiste over lunch that day. One or two other points are perhaps worth recording.
2. Spring said that negotiating the programme for government with Fine Gael and Democratic Left had caused few problems: they had taken the existing Fianna Fail/Labour document as a baseline. It was a new experience for Labour to be the status quo party, with Fine Gael trying to break in. I confessed I had not read the document. Spring said that neither had he: I should not bother too much with it. I noted the long passage on Sellafield. Spring indicated that Sellafield was of little consequence to him: it was an issue in Dublin, not in Kerry.
3. Spring confirmed he had broken off negotiations with Fianna Fail because in the end he could not trust them, but also because there were further timebombs ticking away.
4. He also indicated distaste over contacts with Sinn Fein. He said he had avoided the initial handshake with Gerry Adams on the steps of Government Buildings because "it was not my scene", and added with a grimace that he had subsequently attended one meeting with Adams. The seating arrangement at the lunch may have owed something to this. Adams, with Mary O'Rourke, Bruton, Alderdice, Jean Kennedy-Smith and one or two others were at one table; Spring, Gordon Wilson and I at the adjacent one. Politesse or choice?



(Signed)  
D E S Blatherwick  
AMBASSADOR

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