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M. J. Carley
8/7

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UIMH/FAX NO. (#98) 754 505DATA/DATE 5/7/1991 AM/TIME 3:10 pmCHUIG/TO Mr. Dermot GallagherDO/FOR Ambassador Burke - CANBERRAÓ/FROM Ambassador Burke - CANBERRA

LÍON LEATHANACH (AN CEANN SEO SAN ÁIREAMH)/

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET) FOUR

TEACHTAIREACHT/MESSAGE:

To: Mr. Dermot Gallagher,
Assistant Secretary
Anglo-Irish Section
Department of Foreign Affairs,
Dublin.

*cc copy
re: sub: pss
re: M. J. Carley
Self*

Dear Dermot,

Sir Ninian Stephen has asked me to pass on the following letters (originals in schedule), to Mr. Gerard Collins T.D. Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The P.S. included in the joint letter to our Minister and the Secretary of State preceded my briefing of Sir Ninian on the basis of what Anne Anderson told me. He remains, as usual, totally willing to comply with any timeframe emerging in his designated role as Chairman of the second strand talks.

George Thompson has naturally been in contact enquiring about his position. I would appreciate urgently any guidance you can give me on his role in the interim between now and September.

Regards.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Burke

Martin Burke,
Ambassador.

THE RT HON SIR NINIAN STEPHEN
AK, GCMO, GCVO, KBE

4 Treasury Place,
Melbourne, VIC. 3002
Phone: 655 2646
Phone: 655 2553
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4th July, 1991

Mr. Gerard Collins, T.D.,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs,
DUBLIN 2,
IRELAND

*C. cc PSH
H. Hill: PPS
H. Hill: PPS
2. Self*

My dear Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 21st June, which I received at the same time as I did the joint letter from you and Peter Brooke of 21st June. You will no doubt be receiving my reply to the latter at the same time as you receive this.

I regard it a great honour that your Government should invite me to chair Strand Two of the round-table talks. I have told Mr. Gallagher that the proposed terms of appointment, as discussed with me, are entirely satisfactory.

I thank the Taoiseach for his good wishes and join him in hoping that this assignment may prove to be successful in its outcome.

Sincerely

Ninian Stephen

P.S. The postscript to my reply to the joint letter is, of course, equally applicable to this letter.

N.S.

THE RT HON SIR NINIAN STEPHEN
AK, OCMG, OCVG, KBE

4 Treasury Place,
Melbourne, VIC. 3002
Phone: 635 2646
Phone: 635 2333
Fax: 630 9073

4th July, 1991

To: The Secretary of State for
Northern Ireland
and The Minister for Foreign Affairs,

Gentlemen,

Thank you for your joint letter of 21st June, which was handed to me in the course of my meeting in Melbourne with senior officials, Mr. Chilcot and Mr. Gallagher.

May I say, at the outset, how honoured I am to be asked by your Governments to chair the Strand Two Talks. As a result of the very helpful discussions held with Messrs. Chilcot and Gallagher, I now better understand the process proposed and my intended role in that process.

I have read the Procedural Guidelines for the Chairman of Strand Two, together with the document on Secretarial arrangements. They appear to call for no comment from me other than to say that I see no difficulty in operating in accordance with their tenor.

As you will have heard, Mr. George Thompson, seconded from Australia's Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, will act as my Private Secretary.

I appreciate how difficult it is to provide any precise commencement date, let alone predict the duration, of my involvement as Chairman. That should not, however, occasion any difficulty. The Australian Government has agreed temporarily to release me from my duties as Ambassador as and when required and I can make satisfactory arrangements so far as concern my other commitments. Accordingly, I will be available on short notice.

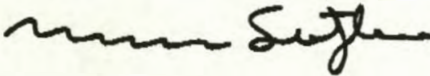
My present understanding is that, although it is still conceivable that I might be required for a short time towards the end of July, it is a good deal more likely that it will not be until about the second week of September that I will be needed; also that it will be desirable that I should arrive in the U.K. a full week before Strand Two discussions begin.

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I have discussed matters of remuneration, accommodation, travel, security and the like with Messrs. Chilcot and Gallagher and all that has been proposed by them is entirely satisfactory.

I very much look forward both to meeting you and to taking part in this historic process that you have set in train.


Sincerely,



P.S. I have, overnight, heard the news of the ending of the Strand One talks. I have also received a copy of the Secretary of State's Statement in the House.

This outcome must be an acute disappointment to those who have worked so hard to achieve the progress made so far and who, of course, hoped that progress would mature into lasting achievement.

Should Mr. Brooke's hope that talks can be resumed in the future be realised, I, of course, stand ready to be of such service as might be thought useful. However, I appreciate that future talks may necessitate a quite different form of procedure from that hitherto contemplated. In any event, the past fortnight has provided me with fascinating, if as yet superficial, insight into the problems of Northern Ireland.



Copy to the Rt. Hon. Peter Brooke

Copy to Mr. Gerard Collins TD