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*in 12/20/92
 they appear to be of some significance here*
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 Mr Nally
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TO: HQ FROM: Belfast - 3 February, 1992 PAGES: 2
 FOR: A/Sec O hUiginn FROM: Joint Secretary

MR. BROOKE'S WALDEN INTERVIEW, ITV, SUNDAY, 2 FEBRUARY, 1992

1. Walden pursued two main points with Mr. Brooke:
 - Would he exclude a deal between the Conservatives and the Unionists in the event of a hung Parliament? It was striking that Mr. Brooke declined to exclude that possibility although he did say that he had already given an assurance on behalf of the Government as a whole that no conversations to that end had taken place. Walden noted that his refusal to exclude a deal with the Unionists after the Election would cause him trouble. In response to Walden's suggestion that if they were to ally themselves with the Tories after the Election, the Unionists would want changes to the Agreement, Brooke pointed out that the Agreement was an international one and that the British Government respected the fact that any change would have to be by agreement between the two Governments. He did say, however, that both Governments had made it clear two years ago that the Agreement was not sacred or set in concrete and that if talks were successful it could be changed.
 - Were there any circumstances in which Brooke would impose a solution? The parties had taken two years just to come to the table. The British people were becoming impatient and doubtful if the parties would ever voluntarily agree. Mr. Brooke's initial reaction was to emphasise the importance of agreement, the ability of either side in the North to frustrate

political initiatives by refusing to cooperate which had been a feature of the last twenty years. He pointed to the agreements that had been made voluntarily in more than half the District Councils as evidence that it was better to encourage rather than impose solutions. He did agree with Walden, however, that if following the Election, he was still Secretary of State and if he could not obtain any progress, then he would consider imposing a settlement. When asked if this would be of a power-sharing variety he said not necessarily so and spoke of the possibility of policies of integration. Walden asked if that would not be contrary to the Anglo-Irish Agreement to which Mr. Brooke replied there were shades of integration just as there were shades of devolution. When Walden suggested that effectively there would be a three or four year deadline for the success of any talks following the Election, Brooke appeared to agree.

2. We hope to let you have a transcript of the programme.