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*Copied to Mr D. Donoghue,
DfA
S. Sullivan
11/2/92*

Roinn an Taoisigh
Department of the Taoiseach

30 November, 1992.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Ninian Stephen,
4 Treasury Place,
Melbourne,
VIC 3000 Australia.

Dear Sir Ninian,

Thank you very much for your letter of 12 November.

I fully share your sentiments about the Talks. It is indeed disappointing that they have ended.

The Irish Government remain absolutely committed to the process and to the achievement of its objectives. We shall be working for its resumption at the earliest possible date.

There is much to look back on with satisfaction. I believe that each delegation at the talks left the table with a significantly improved appreciation of the nature and dimensions of the problems and of the elements of a settlement. The past months of direct and sustained negotiation laid a firm foundation upon which we can build.

What we have been able to achieve owes much to your dedicated chairmanship of Strand Two and to the additional role which you kindly agreed to take on in recent weeks. We all benefitted from your wise guidance. I am also most grateful for the courtesy which you extended at all times to the Irish Government delegation.

I hope that, if agreement is reached on further talks which would require the participation of an Independent Chairman, it may be possible to call once more on your services.

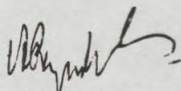
Roinn an Taoisigh
Department of the Taoiseach

- 2 -

Prime Minister Major and I have written jointly to Prime Minister Keating to express our deep appreciation for the outstanding manner in which you chaired the talks and for the significant personal contribution you made.

With every best wish,

Yours sincerely,



Taoiseach.