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Oifig an Taoisigh  
Office of the Taoiseach

30 December, 1993.

The Most Reverend Dr. R.H.A. Eames,  
The Archbishop of Armagh.

Your Grace,

Thank you very much for your good wishes. May I convey to you and your family best wishes for 1994, which I know we all hope will be a much more peaceful one.

As you know, your involvement in this initiative was crucial to its success. I am pleasantly surprised at the degree of support the Joint Declaration has received from within the Unionist community. I received, as you may be aware, just before Christmas, a cordial reply from James Molyneaux to the letter you passed on to him from me some weeks ago. The positive noises coming from the Loyalist paramilitaries are also encouraging. I am very grateful for all the public as well as private support you have given the Declaration.

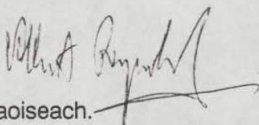
The situation with regard to the Republicans is complex and difficult. It is very important at this juncture that they should not be bribed, threatened or humiliated. To present the Declaration as a charter for surrender might be emotionally satisfying to their many opponents, but would be disastrously counterproductive.

I also feel the British Government now needs to be more even-handed, as I have tried to be, and in particular to emphasise the point in the Declaration that it will work for agreement between the people on this island, whatever form that may take.

May I thank you again for your very great help and assistance.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

  
Taoiseach.

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THE ARCHBISHOP OF ARMAGH  
The Most Reverend Dr. R. H. A. Eames

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FOR THE ATTENTION OF: THE TAOISEACH

FROM : The Most Reverend Dr Robin Eames.

DATE : 16 December 1993

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: 1

MESSAGE :

Dear Taoiseach.

I would like to take this opportunity following the publication of the Joint Declaration to congratulate you on this milestone in the process of seeking peace with justice in Northern Ireland. It has been my privilege to know something of the work which has gone into this development and while we all pray that the response to the document will be that which we desire I feel at this time you deserve, and I hope will receive, the congratulations and good wishes of all right thinking people.

Yours very sincerely,

+ Robert Armagh.

(If any part of this transmission is not received please telephone the Archbishop's Office (0861) 527144).