



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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Taoiseach
Do see please
13/3/95

cc PST
PSS
Mr P. Murray
Mr P. DeLeon
Mr S. Donohue
Mr T. Dalton.
John

Contacts with Mr. John Hume

1. I had a number of conversations on Sunday, February 12th, with Mr. John Hume, who was deeply concerned at a report in the Sunday Observer that the British proposed to dilute the Framework Document to meet unionist objections. He thought that any such move would be totally unacceptable: It had been said that no single group had a veto on policy. If the thinking of the Governments was to be changed as a function of deliberately engineered unionist leaks and protests, the position of the two Governments would lose all credibility. He was also concerned about the possible impact on the Strand One document, which might be doctored for unionist purposes. He stressed he would have nothing to do with an exclusively internal settlement focussing on an Assembly.
2. I said we had been given some indication that the British would propose some changes at the Tanaiste's forthcoming meeting on Tuesday. We were unclear whether these would be marginal matters, or touch on the substance of the document. I assured him the Government were fully conscious of the need for a balanced document, and of the importance of not being blown off course by deliberate press manoeuvres. We would have a clearer picture on Tuesday what British intentions were at the political level.
3. Hume also contacted Sir John Chilcot to convey his concern to him. Chilcot made some reassuring noises that matters were "on course". However Hume noted that the assurances were carefully qualified by reference to the situation as of Friday last.
4. Hume asked that his concern that the Irish Government should stand firm should be conveyed to the Tanaiste and Taoiseach.

13/2

John

Mr. Hillier
S.A.
[Signature]

Sean O hUiginn
13 February, 1995