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AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
DUBLIN 2

Secret

12 May 1998

Mr. Paddy Teahon
Secretary General
Department of the Taoiseach

Dear Paddy,

A close friend, with invaluable contacts in the North, phoned to say he was very worried about what the Prime Minister might say during the course of his visit to Belfast on Thursday. His concern, he believes, is shared at the highest level in the NIO.

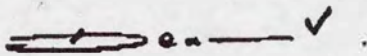
A conversation he had this morning with Jeffrey Donaldson further heightens my friend's concern. Donaldson hinted that he might be able to extract some changes in the legislation giving effect to the Agreement. The particular worry (and allowing for an element of Donaldson showing off his influence) is that this would include linkages which were not in the Agreement (e.g. between decommissioning and places in the executive/prisoner releases).

In all the circumstances, and given in particular that any unpicking of the balance in the Agreement would be quite disastrous, I feel consideration might be given to a telephone call between the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister before Thursday's visit.

As discussed, it would also be extremely helpful and timely if Sinn Féin could warm

up its language in relation to the war being over. I know from the discussion at Friday's Liaison meeting in London that this would be considered extremely helpful by the British side.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dermot Gallagher", with a checkmark at the end of the line.

Dermot Gallagher

Secretary

cc Minister for Foreign Affairs