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T. Immediate

SECRET

TELEPHONE CALL FROM BILL JEFFREY, 28 January

1. The call was very worrying. The Secretary of State had met Trimble and Empey this morning and began to sound them out on the need to think about what they would do if the de Chastelain report, while positive, did not report that actual product had been destroyed.

2. The angry response - "despairingly angry" was how Jeffrey described it - was that anything less than actual product would not be enough.

3. As a result of the discussion, the Secretary of State said he would be very surprised if Trimble's bottom line is not actual product. Anything else probably wouldn't carry the day.

4. All this is deeply worrying. We could find ourselves in the position where Sinn Féin might have stretched their constituency and given us something but it would be still a considerable distance from what Trimble can sell. For the moment, however, all we can do is to continue the maximum pressure on Sinn Féin, at all levels.

D—

Dermot Gallagher

Secretary

cc PS. PM, M Taoiseach, M Dublin.
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