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FROM: C D KYLE

25 NOVEMBER 1993

CDK/26267/93/AL

I am glad to have this opportunity to express my regret and outrage, which is shared by the Government, at the publication in last Friday's Irish Press of a confidential draft document which had been prepared in my Department.

NOTE FOR INFORMATION

- PS/Sec of State (B&L)
- PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L)
- PS/Michael Ancram (B&L)
- PS/PUS (B&L)
- PS/Mr Fell
- Mr Thomas
- Mr Legge
- Mr Williams
- Mr Bell
- Mr Watkins
- Mr Maxwell
- Mr Cooke
- Mr Maccabe
- Mr Quinn
- Mr Brooker
- Ms Lodge
- Mr Archer RID

Mr. Kelly
Interests
25/11

I have not referred to this matter publicly. My first concern has been to take whatever steps possible to identify the source of this leak. As much information as possible has been gathered and I have consulted with senior Garda officers. I am determined to take every possible step to identify the source of this leak.

STATEMENT ON THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE DAIL: 24 NOVEMBER 1993

The Irish side has passed over the text of a statement made by the Tanaiste on 24 November regarding 'the publication in last Friday's Irish Press of a confidential draft document' prepared in the DFA.

[Signed]

C D KYLE

25 NOVEMBER 1993

This document was prepared as part of a process of negotiation and discussion initiated by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and myself in September. The British side of that process had already submitted preliminary views on matters which might feature in resumed political talks in Northern Ireland.

STATEMENT ON THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE DÁIL

DICK SPRING TD

TÁNAISTE & MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NOVEMBER 24TH, 1993

I am glad to have this opportunity to express my own sense of anger and outrage, which is shared by the Government, at the publication in last Friday's Irish Press of a confidential draft document which had been prepared in my Department.

I have not referred to this matter publicly before, since my first concern has been to take whatever steps I can to find the source of this leak. As much information as possible had been gathered and I have consulted with senior Garda officers in the matter. I am determined to take every possible step to find the source.

The publication arose from the unauthorised handing over of the document in question to Ms Emily O'Reilly, Political Correspondent of the Irish Press. Whoever gave the document to Ms O'Reilly, obviously in the knowledge that it would be published, either didn't know or didn't care that the interests of this country would be damaged by that act.

Obviously, newspapers and reporters who are handed a scoop like this on a plate are going to be very tempted by them. My criticism is not directed at them - they must examine their own consciences in the matter - but rather at whoever handed over the document.

This document was prepared as part of a process of negotiation and discussion initiated by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and myself in September. The British side of that process had already submitted preliminary views on matters which might feature in resumed political talks in Northern Ireland.

all I can say in the time available is that I would name the perpetrator of this leak among the real suspects of both communities in Northern Ireland.

document published by the Irish Press was a draft, prepared at official level, of what our position might be in response to the position of the British Government.

As such, of course, the document could inevitably have undergone considerable change before any agreement between the two Governments emerged. In fact, it had never even been considered by members of the Government here - it was not even at a stage where it was appropriate to submit it to the Government here, let alone the British Government.

In addition, the Taoiseach has already made it clear that there is no connection between this draft document and the work in which the two Governments have engaged to find a pathway to peace.

What this leak has done is to place a cloud over a small number of respected and honourable people. I have indicated my own willingness to submit to any questioning about the matter to the relevant authorities, and I know that everyone else who had any role in connection with the document is equally anxious to have the matter cleared up.

The publication of a document like this, prepared for very specific purposes, inevitably distorts perceptions of the likely outcome of any process of discussion. The Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, James Molyneaux, last night referred to the "smell of betrayal" that his constituents detected in public utterances. All I can say in response to that is that I understand fully how partial information can lead to such a conclusion. But there will be no betrayal of the interests of either community in Northern Ireland by this Government, as we search for a peaceful way forward for both communities.

I hope tomorrow in the Seanad to have the opportunity of addressing the present concerns of the communities in more detail. For now, all I can say in the time available is that I would number the perpetrator of this leak among the real betrayers of both communities in Northern Ireland.

ends.