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FROM: JONATHAN STEPHENS
PS/SECRETARY OF STATE
23 NOVEMBER 1993

ASST *mm 526/11*
SEC 25 NOV 1993
CENT SEC

- cc: PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - B
 - PS/Mr Atkins (L,DED&DOE) - B/M
 - PS/Lord Arran (L,DANI&DHSS) - B/M
 - PS/Michael Ancram (L,B&DENI) - B/M
 - PS/PUS (L&B) - B
 - PS/Mr Fell - B
 - Mr Thomas - B
 - NI Perm Secs - M
 - Mr Bell - B
 - Mr Watkins - B
 - Mr Williams - B
 - Mr Wood (L&B) - B
 - Mr Brooker - B
 - Mr Cooke - B
 - Mr Dodds - B
 - Mr Maccabe - B
 - Mr Millar - B
 - Mrs Kenny - M
 - Mr May - B
 - Miss Steele - B
 - HMA Dublin - B
 - Mr Archer RID - B
- (other attachments to follow) *attached*

Mrs Kenny

MR MAXWELL

NORTH WEST REGION CROSS BORDER GROUP CONFERENCE - FRIDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 1993

Thank you for your submission of 15 November which, along with Miss Steele's submission of 18 November, provided briefing for this conference and the Taoiseach's visit.

2. The leak that morning in the Irish Press threatened to cast a shadow over the conference. On arrival, the Taoiseach said to the Secretary of State, and Martin Mansergh emphasised to me, how horrified and angered the Taoiseach was by the leak: he had not seen the paper and it had not been approved by the Irish Government. When I said to Dr Mansergh that we still looked forward to receiving quickly and privately an official Irish response, he shook his head mournfully and said that he feared the Taoiseach had been so angered by this leak that work on their response would inevitably be delayed.

3. The conference itself, however, proceeded without difficulty. The Secretary of State was grateful for the draft speech which you had prepared: I attach the final version as he delivered it. I also attach the Taoiseach's speech as distributed to the press.

4. In the Mayor's parlour before the formal speeches, the Taoiseach and the Secretary of State were both welcomed to the conference and each handed a letter from the North West Region Cross Border Group, seeking Government pledges of continued support. A copy is attached - I should be grateful if you would prepare a reply for the Secretary of State's signature by close of play on 3 December.

SIGNED

JONATHAN STEPHENS
PS/Secretary of State
OAB Ext 6462
23 November 1993