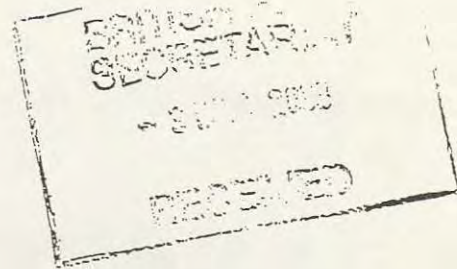


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C27/12

FROM: Secretary of State  
02 December 2003

*See John*

cc: See Distribution List

John Spellar (B&L) - O

### LOYALISM

The election outcome adds an extra dimension of importance to the task we face in relation to the loyalist communities in Northern Ireland. My view is that we have two particular and related, urgent objectives. The first is to ensure that on a political level all shades of loyalism – including those who have, or may yet be encouraged to adopt, a broadly pro-Agreement stance, and those opposed – do not feel excluded from dialogue with us. The second is to give some real impetus to the task of improving the conditions of those who live in deprived loyalist areas.

2. As we discussed, I would like you to regard this as a key task, wearing both your political development hat but also adopting a cross-cutting role across the relevant Northern Ireland departments in conjunction with Jane, Angela and Ian.

3. So far as the first objective is concerned there is, I think, a need for significant direct engagement with those who position themselves as the political representatives of loyalism albeit outside the two major unionist parties.

4. As regards the second, I know that you are already receiving advice on how to take forward the work begun by Des Browne to begin to target the various programmes impacting upon loyalist areas more effectively. Clearly, such targeting has a wider relevance than this immediate remit. However, on the assumption that direct rule does not continue too far into 2004 I should like you to work with colleagues to identify actions that could have an early and significant impact in loyalist areas as a first priority.

*Yours ever,*  
*Paul*  
**PAUL MURPHY**  
Secretary of State

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE