

**NOTE OF A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARY OF
STATE ON MONDAY 10 DECEMBER 2001 AT 6.30 PM**

I rang the Secretary of State to explore with him my feelings in relation to the leaking of the draft report and the subsequent sending of the full report to him. I explained that I have been enormously bruised by what had happened and that I was absolutely determined that there would be no leaking of the final report. I was therefore only prepared to send it to him if I got his assurance that he would keep it confidential. I said I was not in any way being disrespectful but that Joe Pilling had told me that "what I give to the Secretary of State I give to the whole Northern Ireland Office and I have to understand that", and for that reason I did not feel in a situation in which I could move without asking him to assure me of confidentiality on this matter. He became rather angry and said that I was suggesting that the Northern Ireland Office had leaked the document and I said that I did not suggest that nor did I think that, but that I did think that I needed in some way to protect myself. My Office, my report and I have all been the subject of very significant attack over the past week. He said he understood this and he said well would I not be sending it to the Chief Constable and I said that I had a certain reluctance to send it to the Chief Constable because he had commented about the draft report. He asked me was I saying that the Chief Constable leaked it and I said I wasn't, I didn't know who had leaked it but I was very clear that the leak had not come from my Office. After some discussion however he said that if I sent the document to him he would make sure it remained confidential, where he could never promise 100% confidentiality. He told me that he would be in London today and I asked did he want me to put somebody on a plane with it to him but he said no, if we delivered it up to the Northern Ireland Office he would get it confidentially faxed through to him in London.

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