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CONFIDENTIAL

FROM: P JOHNSTON  
PS/SIR JOHN WHEELER  
7 JUNE 1996

cc: PS/Secretary of State (L&B)	- B
PS/Sir John Wheeler (L&B)	- B
PS/PUS (L&B)	- B
Mr Thomas	- B
Mr Legge	- B
Mr Leach	- B
Mr Bell	- B
Mr Watkins	- B
Mr Maccabe	- B
Mr Hill	- B
Mr Stephens	- B
Mr Perry	- B
Mr Lavery	- B
Mr Whysall	- B
Mr Dickinson	- B
Mr Lamont, RID	- B
HMA Dublin	- B
Mrs Collins, Cabinet Office	- M

PS/MICHAEL ANCRAM (L&B)

TALKS: KEEPING SINN FEIN OUT

The Minister was grateful for sight of your submission of 6 June to Michael Ancram which floated the idea of a joint statement.

2. Sir John is content with the text which was attached to Mr Hill's submission. Sir John agrees that the statement would have most force if it was delivered by a British Minister supported by an Irish Minister but he wonders if the Irish will really be prepared to do this.

3. In addition, Sir John has said that it would be helpful if the US Government could be persuaded to say something supportive of this approach. This approach would demonstrate to the Republican movement that PIRA and their hardline refusal to declare a ceasefire are isolating Sinn Fein further from the other elements of a Pan-Nationalist coalition.

SIGNED

Paul A Johnston  
PS/Sir John Wheeler  
OAB Ext 6498  
7 June 1996

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