

Deco pps



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

File
Jan 18/6.

John Holmes Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1A 2AA

14 June 1996

Dear John,

Copy attached

Thank you for your letter of 12 June. It was kind of you to write. In the light of developments, I did not expect a reply to my fax. It has been overtaken by events - but I appreciate confirmation that I was on target re negotiations and decommissioning.

It is very good of you to indeed to offer a briefing on the progress of the talks. I am anxious to keep as closely informed as possible. A combination of extensive media coverage and a conversation with Patrick on Thursday have given me a reasonable understanding of events to date. I would very much like to take up your offer when I feel I am losing touch with what is going on.

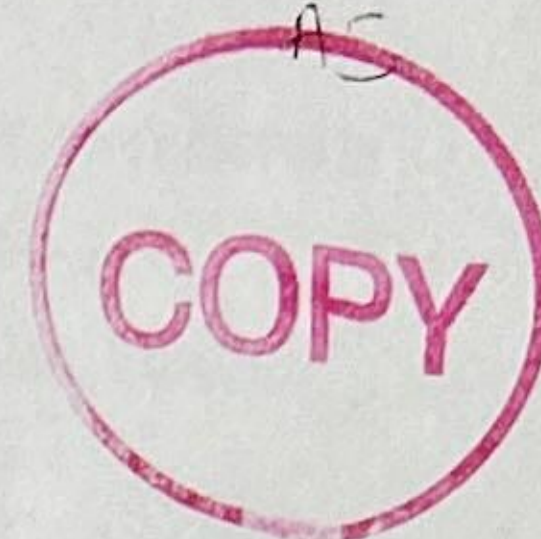
Yrs ever,

Andrew

Andrew Hunter MP



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA



From the Private Secretary

12 June 1996

Dear Andrew,

NORTHERN IRELAND

I am very conscious that I never formally replied to your fax last week setting out your understanding on Sinn Fein, negotiations and decommissioning. I did try to telephone you, but without success. I hope that in any case you drew the correct conclusion that I have no difficulty with your outline.

The situation has of course moved on in some respects since then, with the beginning of the talks and the various shenanigans which have accompanied this, but the essence of your points has not changed. If you would like a word about the progress of the talks so far, I would be happy to explain our views. In general, we are pleased that the process is at least under way, that most of the parties have shown a readiness to compromise to reach agreements, and that the independent chairmen have taken their places.

Yours ever

JOHN HOLMES

Andrew Hunter, Esq., M.P.