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From the Private Secretary

12 June 1996

Dee 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.

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