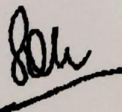


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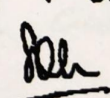
CONFIDENTIAL

1. I had a phone call from John Hume in Derry this morning, following on his conversation with the Tánaiste last night. He said that he met last night with Gerry Adams and representatives of the IRA. A short statement will be issued, embargoed for 12.00 noon today (see attached).
2. Mr. Hume expected that Sinn Féin would seek to make contact with us today. He considered that the most important point to stress was that a fixed date had now been agreed without precondition. Mr. Hume stressed that people were still intensely suspicious. He attached significance to the IRA's acknowledgement "that an inclusive negotiated settlement is required" as a positive sign of their intentions.
3. I asked him how he himself saw the prospects of the ceasefire being reinstated, stressing that yesterday's statement was as good as it was going to get from the Sinn Féin point of view, and that if they could not use this to reinstate the ceasefire, they were unlikely to have any better opportunity.
4. Mr. Hume thought that it would be possible provided they had reassurances on the fixed date without preconditions and that the "nationalist consensus was restored".



Sean Ó hUiginn
29 February 1996

Encl: Statement.

cc PST
PSG
Mr P Teahan
Mr T Dalton

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