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SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND

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NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
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6, June 1996

John Hume

Under the terms of section 2 of the Northern Ireland (Entry to Negotiations, etc) Act 1996 I am writing to you as the nominating representative of a party which has been successful in the elections, to invite you to nominate a team to participate in the negotiations beginning next Monday.

The negotiating team must under the Act be composed of delegates returned at the elections. There is no limit to the number of delegates who may be included. The Ground Rules for the negotiations agreed by the two governments would however generally limit a party's team for any one meeting to three (with a further three people, who need not be elected, in support if they wish).

We need to make arrangements with all speed. It would be helpful if your nomination could be passed to me as quickly as possible, and in any event no later than 6 June, via the head of our Talks Administration Unit, Mr Peter Dickinson. His telephone number is 01232 522126 and his fax number 01232 522119.

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It would be convenient also if Mr Dickinson could be notified as soon as possible after you receive this letter of the name of a person with whom he should be in contact (a colleague, or indeed yourself if you wish) over initial administrative arrangements for the negotiations.

I am enclosing for your information a copy of a response I propose to give tomorrow to a parliamentary question about nominations to the negotiations.

I also enclose a note about the allowances which the two Governments intend to pay to delegates, in respect of the meetings in the relevant strands.

We shall be in touch further about arrangements for the negotiations.

I believe we are embarking on a process of dialogue with great potential to improve the lives and prospects of the people of Northern Ireland, and of everyone in these two islands. I look forward very much to your contribution.

James McNulty
For the Secretary