



FAXED

To NIO
HMA Dublin. 18/7/96.
[Signature]

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER
PERSONAL

18 July 1996

Dear Cardinal Daly,

I know how wounded you feel about the events of last week. May I give you my personal assurance that, as Michael Ancram has explained, we had absolutely no intention of abusing the enormous effort you had made to reach agreement. Like you, we had hoped until the last minute that a local accommodation would be possible. I am grateful to you and your fellow church leaders for your work to avert tragedy, and am desperately sorry that it did not succeed.

I know too the depth of the anger and disillusion in the Catholic community about what took place. I fear we will not agree on the analysis of what happened and why. But, as I agreed with John Hume and his SDLP colleagues yesterday, we must now look forward and turn the disaster of last week into an opportunity to make real progress in the political talks. We are fully committed to this; and to working with the Irish Government to achieve it. Dialogue has to be the way forward.

I remain personally determined to achieve a settlement acceptable to both communities, which will give the parity of rights and esteem so badly needed.

The Prime Minister The Cardinal Archbishop of Armagh

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I hope we will have a chance to meet again before long. Meanwhile I look forward to hearing at first hand from Brian Mawhinney your own thoughts and concerns at this very difficult time.

Yours sincerely
John Hume

Paddy Teahan gave me the following account of the 60 minute meeting between Irish officials (mainly himself, Paddy and John Hume and John Ford (Adams, Doherty and others) on 17 July. He described it as 'not the worst meeting they had had'.

The meeting had three separate themes.

- (i) Discussion of Drumcree, and the march. On the issue, John Hume was very clear, and was very strong before Drumcree, but was now in a more moderate mood. There was a level of anger on the street, but John Hume said that John Fein claimed that last week that he was going to be violent himself, had been told to get out of the street, and that he would restrain. But John Hume said that he was going to be violent, and would work for a solution with a gun.
- (ii) A plea for a meeting with the Irish Government, which was argument that the Irish Government were not going to solve the problem despite his breach of the Mitchell agreement.
- (iii) A call for a radical solution of the problem, which was to include John. There had been suggestions for a meeting with Mitchell.

Teahan said that the Irish Government were not going to solve the problem. John had a hard time at Drumcree, and was now in a more moderate mood. The Irish Government were not going to solve the problem despite his breach of the Mitchell agreement.

His Eminence The Cardinal Archbishop of Armagh