

PERSONAL - IN CONFIDENCE



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File.

FAXED

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From the Private Secretary

9 July 1996

Dear Nancy,

**HUME/ADAMS INITIATIVE**

We have spoken on the telephone about the approach to the Prime Minister last week by John Hume. You may find helpful a few more details. As you know, Mr. Hume told the Prime Minister that, on the basis of his discussions with Gerry Adams, if we could make a further public statement - to the effect that the negotiations would be serious, comprehensive and inclusive, that in our view some decommissioning should take place during negotiations, rather than as a precondition, and that we would be ready to look at other confidence-building measures - the IRA would be ready to declare an unequivocal ceasefire. There have been other suggestions that Sinn Fein would also like some kind of timeframe for the negotiations.

... John Hume also gave the Prime Minister the attached letter from Gerry Adams which, as you will see, focuses more on the possibility of a direct dialogue with the British Government.

... The Prime Minister has now sent the enclosed letter to John Hume to make our position clear.

Yours ever

**JOHN HOLMES**

Ms Nancy Soderberg

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