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JMS/17***From: JOHN HOLMES****Date: 30 July 1996****PRIME MINISTER***We should speak
about the Park**31.7***NORTHERN IRELAND: PHONE CALL WITH THE TAOISEACH**

We spoke. This is now fixed for 0900 tomorrow morning. I will ring first to check you are happy.

I attach a checklist of points to make, NIO briefing, and a couple of public statements. I also attach a copy of a note from Edward about the revised date for the Special European Council, in case this comes up.

As you know, the aim of the conversation is to draw a friendly line under the Drumcree disagreements, rather than have a substantive exchange. But there is bound to be a certain amount of substance following the talks finishing for the summer break last night (the Irish were disappointed but accepted the inevitable); and the at best uncertain prospects for the Apprentice Boys' parade on 10 August (where Sinn Fein now appear to be demanding a solution to the whole parades issue, and are not being helpful over a local accommodation).

I doubt the Taoiseach will raise the Hume/Adams initiative but I have put in a line to take anyway. There is a certain amount of low-key pressure from both the Irish and the Americans to talk directly to Sinn Fein.

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You may incidentally like to reflect on two ideas for the post-holiday period.

- probably right.*
- (i) a visit to Northern Ireland: you have not been this year, except to the opening of the talks. A visit sometime in September would demonstrate your continuing commitment and enable you to get a better feel for thinking in the Province.
 - (ii) a speech on Northern Ireland: you have not set out your views at any length for some time, and there are new circumstances to address. A speech and visit would of course be easily combined - and you could go on to Dublin from Belfast.

You may like to reflect on these ideas over the holiday, depending on how the Apprentice Boys Parade turns out. But any immediate thoughts meanwhile?

John

I visit - speech to Belfast
(subject to what I have to say)
is unlikely -

JOHN HOLMES

f120.mfj

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Taoiseach: checklist

- Vital to keep the talks going and get on to the substance. Only
- Sorry the call delayed from yesterday. Was in Manchester, looking at the IRA bomb damage. Reminder of their ability and continuing desire to cause destruction.
- Glad to have a word before the summer break.
- Important to show that, whatever our disagreements from time to time, our two governments can go on working closely.

Belfast talks

- Glad that procedural issues out of the way. Should not underestimate importance of this, and evidence of talks' ability to survive Drumcree strains.
- Much regret that more progress not possible on agenda. But clear that parties' will to reach rapid solutions not there, reinforced by exhaustion and absence of Mitchell.
- Decommissioning always going to be difficult. Need to reflect and work on how to find a way through before talks resume. But no magic solutions.
- Aware of difficult position of SDLP. Must encourage them to stay in.
- Useful if you can talk to UUP again.

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- Vital to keep the talks going and get on to the substance. Only alternative is more useless violence.

Apprentice Boys

- Doing everything possible to promote a local accommodation, but signals mixed.
- Not sure Sinn Fein want a solution. Please encourage them to co-operate.
- Cannot solve whole parades issue before 10 August, though hope we can do so before next year. Must concentrate on immediate aim of avoiding confrontation in Derry and Belfast.
- (If necessary) Don't know what view Chief Constable will take if agreement not possible. For him to decide.

(Not looking Bogside?)

Hume/Adams (If raised)

- Now clear, on testing, that Hume's initial account of Adams' position not accurate (not a surprise), and ceasefire not imminent.
- Sinn Fein seem to be looking to engage us in a separate negotiation without any commitment to a new ceasefire themselves. Not a game we can play. But ready to explore any genuine way forward.
- Meanwhile must keep up pressure on IRA simply to declare a ceasefire

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and not encourage them to ask for more concessions.

Special European Council

- Grateful for your efforts to accommodate my problems with early October, and those of others. Hope to be able to say yes to 9 November, though not ideal.

*Refund diff. issues
in IBC.*

J+H.A., CFSP,

rtaocheck.mel

*No dec. making
no communication,*

*Fishing,
Bosnia,*

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