

P.A.B.

01 OCT 1996

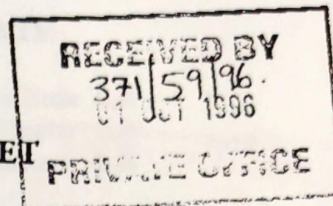
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DESK IMMEDIATE

C.C PS/Secretary of State L,B
PS/Sir John Wheeler L,B
PS/Michael Ancram L,B
PS/PUS L+B
PS/Sir David Fell
Mr Thomas L+B
Mr Steele
Mr Ray
Mr Bell
Mr Leach L+B
Mr Watkins
Mr Stephens
Mr Hill L+B
Mr Perry
Mr Maccabe
Mr Beeton
Mr Lavery
Mr Whysall L+B

From : JOHN HOLMES
To: REN LINDSAY
Subject: HUME / ADAMS' INITIATIVE
Date: 30 SEPT 1996

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

30 September 1996

Dear Gen,

HUME/ADAMS' INITIATIVE

John Hume rang me this evening to say that he had just met Adams. Adams' initial response to the text we gave Hume was "fairly positive", although Adams had suggested that he would like improvements in some areas. Hume said, in his usual airily optimistic way, that he did not think these would be difficult for us. He had agreed to meet Adams again next Monday to take delivery of Sinn Fein's definitive response.

I said that I could not say that we would wait for this before publication. We had concerns of our own, not least about the possibility of leaks. Hume acknowledged this, but said that he was sure there would be no leaks from their side. I also warned yet again against any expectation that we would agree to change the text. Hume said he understood but

Hume was relatively subdued. Allowing for his natural optimism and desire to put the best face on Adams' response, my guess is that Adams' reactions were not in fact all that positive. Meanwhile, the timescale for the Sinn Fein reply is another factor in consideration of the timing of publication. We will need to take a firm decision on this by Wednesday night/Thursday morning at the latest.

I am copying this to Jan Polley (Cabinet Office).

Yours etc
John

JOHN HOLMES

Ken Lindsay Esq
Northern Ireland Office

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