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**10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA**

From the Private Secretary

17 September 1996

Dear Ken:

LETTER FROM GERRY ADAMS

I attach a letter from Gerry Adams dated 17 September, which reached us by fax today. The purpose of the letter is not clear. While its last sentence is at least consistent with the points emerging from the Hume/Adams approach, the tone of the rest of the letter is not calculated to encourage us to see Sinn Fein as anxious to join the talks or ready for a new IRA ceasefire, without major changes to the talks process. You will want to consider urgently how this plays into Hume's approaches and how it should therefore be dealt with in the draft paper for NI Committee. //A

In slower time, I would be grateful for advice on whether, and if so in what terms, a reply should be sent. //B

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

*Yours ever
John*

JOHN HOLMES

Ken Lindsay, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.

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