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SECRET

Telephone conversation between Taoiseach

and the British Prime Minister

Saturday 26 October 1996

PM Difficulty with phones!

T Hello John, Thank you very much for taking the call today I know its awkward here. I hope your not too pressed for time

PM I am just on my way out in a few minutes.

T I had a very good conversation yesterday with Paddy and also

PM Paddy told me you did nothing but drink huge pints of Irish whiskey

T Not quite, I gave him a very large one. I'd like just to say basically what my up to date knowledge of the situation is. Shortly after that there was a meeting between some of our officials and Sinn Féin, or with Adams basically, and the outcome of that was that Adams stated quite categorically that if the article - as almost agreed - was to be published that there would be, within 24 hours a ceasefire. He stated this very directly and very clearly and the people who met him (insofar as any one can believe what he says) believed that this is true. Thus, we are at a point where, we could, have an immediate restoration of the ceasefire. This I think is something that needs to be looked at very carefully because I think it will be difficult to get back to this point again, unless we take it on board when we have it. Now the situation is of course, that we have made it clear, both of us, that a ceasefire must be credible and not tactical and must hold in all circumstances. They know that that is the position that we have taken. On the other hand, we also agreed, after the IRA had resumed their ceasefire, that in accordance with the February 28 Communiqué, that Sinn Féin participation requires a restoration of the ceasefire of August 1994 and we didn't elaborate on that. We didn't say anything about periods of delay or anything like that. This is all we said, just a restoration of the ceasefire. Now of course,