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John 9/9.

From: JOHN HOLMES
Date: 5 September 1996

PRIME MINISTER

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Well 4.6.9.

NORTHERN IRELAND: FUTURE POLICY OPTIONS

NORTHERN IRELAND: HUME/ADAMS INITIATIVE

The NIO have produced a new paper (attached), working up the options we picked out from their earlier paper (also attached).

John Hume rang me this morning to say that he had now got from Adams a form of words which we might use. He was having a final meeting this evening with Adams to discuss this and would fax us the text tomorrow morning. He claimed that the form of words should give us no problems, and that he had been promised that, if we would use the form of words, there would be a new ceasefire. I simply took note.

My guess is that we will have severe difficulty with any form of words provided by Adams and that there will be no assurance of a ceasefire even if we say exactly what Sinn Fein want us to say. But let us see.

John

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