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August 1996

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13 August 1996

HUME/ADAMS INITIATIVE
W¹⁴/8

Der Edward.

Thank you for your letter of 8 August. The detailed probing of Hume helped to clarify a number of important points of detail. In the light of this, your note of 8 August, advising which you may wish to see the attached draft of a note which should have gone to you last week. It contains some points which may still be worth making at an appropriate time.

What is Adams offering?

You got Hume to make clear that Adams was offering to "try to persuade" the IRA to "try to" to any statement by declaring a ceasefire. This is a guaranteeing an IRA ceasefire.

This would make a difference to us if we were offering a concession in return for a ceasefire. But we are not. All that is on offer is established fact. It is not a prospect of a ceasefire or not.

It still remains the case, from what you established with Hume, that the IRA's response to any statement would be known before the statement was made.

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