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John 2/1

Date: 20 January 1997

PRIME MINISTER

NORTHERN IRELAND: HUME/ADAMS

Hume/Adams lives! - at least in the mind of J. Hume. As expected, he has now given us a revised version of his 10 October text, based on further discussions with Adams. I attach an NIO note about this, making clear that the new text is a non-runner. It takes no account of our 28 November statement.

Paddy Mayhew saw Hume today and made this point, together with the fact that we can hardly be expected to take Sinn Fein at all seriously while attacks on the Security Forces continue as they do, even if they have not been successful since Thiepval. Hume seemed to be duly damped down, without losing his good humour (we know he has been told by the Irish too that he is wasting his time).

No further action for us at present, but I will ensure the Irish and Americans are kept up to speed.

A couple of other developments worth mentioning:

- (i) The US Administration have made clear to Adams that he will not get a visa while there is no ceasefire. He is postponing a planned trip to the US, to avoid an actual refusal. Excellent news.

Good

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- (ii) Hume has finally announced he will stand again in the General Election, presumably to keep Sinn Fein out of his seat. His opponent is likely to be Mitchell MacLaughlin.



JOHN HOLMES

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