

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL



FAXED
23/1 Jan 1997

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

22 January 1997

Dear Paddy,

We spoke about the latest words we had been given by John Hume, as amendments to the text he gave us on 10 October. He has said again that if we delivered this statement, it would lead to the announcement of an IRA ceasefire. We have explained to him that, given the statement made by the Prime Minister on 28 November, and the increased IRA violence in Northern Ireland, this approach does not seem realistic. Our position remains as set out on 28 November.

As I explained to Wally Kirwan, John Hume was very insistent that we should not give this text to anyone else. Since we have shared information throughout this saga, I nevertheless attach the text of what we were given. But I would be grateful if you could keep it only in the Taoiseach's office and take particular care that John Hume does not learn that we gave you the text. To help prevent difficulties, you might want to ask John Hume, in view of the press reports, whether he has given us a text and if so whether you could see a copy.

Yours ever

JOHN HOLMES

Mr Paddy Teahon

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