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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

Q.2.2.
27/9 21.20

From the Private Secretary

27 September 1996

Dear Ken,

HUME/ADAMS' INITIATIVE

John Hume spoke to me this afternoon, following delivery of the Prime Minister's letter and the attached text. He said that he thought it was very good and he was very encouraged by it. There were of course a couple of little things which might be phrased better, without changing the meaning. I reminded him (for the umpteenth time) that we were not in the business of negotiating a text. He said that he fully understood that, but

His main concern was that we should not publish the text until we knew what the response would be. He had already been in touch with Adams and would be giving him the text first thing on 28 September. He would be making clear to Sinn Fein that in his view it was a good text. But he thought it might take Sinn Fein a week or so to absorb it and come to a view.

I said that we were not in the business of negotiating about the timing either and would not be kept dangling. Hume said he understood but

Teahon rang me later to say that he had also spoken to Hume. Hume had said to him that he thought we had made a genuine effort. But Teahon had the same impression that Hume would want to start fiddling with the text. I am incidentally seeing Teahon in London over the weekend, as he is here on separate business.

Yours ever
JH

JOHN HOLMES

Ken Lindsay Esq
Northern Ireland Office

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