

From: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

cc - PB
✓ JH



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

John Holmes Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

3 March 1997

Dear John,

EXCHANGES WITH JOHN HUME - NI PAPER

Further to my letter to you of 25 February and my Secretary of State's subsequent meeting with the Prime Minister, I attach a draft paper for use at NI later this week. As I wrote to you, we think that doing nothing is not really an option. The only realistic option is to give answers to Sinn Fein's questions and be prepared to publish them.

The answer to question 1 has been amended and now has included two shorter alternative answers. The answer to question 2 has been amended in the light of last Thursday's discussion; it includes a possible additional scenario at the end designed to remove any suggestion that we would allow the process of entry to be spun out.

Once I receive your agreement, the paper will be forwarded to Cabinet Office. A copy of this goes to Jane Hope and Jan Polley.

Yours ever,

Ken

W K LINDSAY

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