

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

17 March 1997

*Dear Gen,*

**SINN FEIN'S QUESTIONS**

Thank you for your letter of 13 March. The Prime Minister is content for Michael Ancram to give the proposed letter from your Secretary of State to John Hume while they are both in Washington this week, and that we should brief the Irish and US Governments as proposed. He also agrees that we should seek to publish the exchange in the next few days, but we may need to review the precise timing later in the week. We also need to think through the presentational strategy for this, i.e. what we will be saying at the time about the purpose of this exchange and our reasons for publicising it now. Perhaps we can stay in touch about this.

I am copying this letter to Jan Polley (Cabinet Office).

*Yours etc*

**JOHN HOLMES**

Ken Lindsay, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL