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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

File Hume. mem
bec EO

From the Private Secretary

2 October 1996

Dear Sir,

HUME/ADAMS INITIATIVE

Tony Lake rang me this evening to say that, having looked at the text we had sent to Hume, he was impressed by it. He thought it addressed all the issues in a positive way. He proposed to call both Hume and Adams to tell them that, in the US view, it was substantive and reasonable, and deserved a positive response.

Lake said that he had heard that Hume was likely to come back to us with some suggested changes and that the Irish also had some ideas. I confirmed this but repeated that we were not negotiating etc. Lake said that he fully appreciated that. He would not undercut this position in any way in his discussions with Hume and Adams. He added that Bruce Morrison had returned from his recent visit reasonably optimistic about the prospect of a new ceasefire.

Lake added his plea to those of others that we should not rush to publication before we had heard back from Hume/Adams. I said that we would probably be holding off for the moment.

Lake asked finally whether he ought to speak to Trimble. I discouraged him. I could not see that this would be much help for the moment. He agreed.

I am copying this letter to William Ehrman (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Jan Polley (Cabinet Office) and to Sir John Kerr (Washington).

Yours ever

JOHN HOLMES

Ken Lindsay Esq
Northern Ireland Office

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