

30. Oct. 1996 17:42

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No. 1385 P. 2/3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

cc ep
JH

FROM: PS/PUS

30 OCTOBER 1996

cc: PS/Michael Ancram (L,B&DENI) - B
PS/Sir John Wheeler (L,B&DFP) - B
PS/Sir David Fell - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Leach - B
Mr Wood (L&B) - B
Mr Stephens - B
Mr Beeton - B
Mr Hill - B
Mr Perry - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Lavery - B
HMA Dublin - B
Mr Lamont, RID - B
Mr Holmes, No 10

File
M
31/10

DESK IMMEDIATE

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (L&B) - B

TELEPHONE CALL JOHN HUME: 30 OCTOBER 1996

John Hume telephoned PUS this afternoon and reported on his meeting with the Prime Minister. He said that he wanted to stress to PUS his concern that No 10 might fail to fully understand the Republican psyche. His firm belief was that Gerry Adams was totally committed to bringing about a permanent ceasefire. He felt it was of great significance that the statement which he had been authorised to hand over was using language from the PM's statement of 28 February ("unequivocal restoration") and he noted that this language had been employed by the Prime Minister after the Docklands bombing. Whilst Hume recognised HMG's need for reassurance that the ceasefire was 'for keeps' he believed that Adams was willing to go back to the IRA to approve language drawing on the Prime Minister's statement together with an additional element to indicate permanency.

2. Mr Hume then turned to the question of a three months delay should a ceasefire be called. He felt that such a move would be 'silly' and could jeopardise the entire process.

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3. PUS reassured Mr Hume by saying that the Prime Minister had a sophisticated understanding of the issues involved, including the difficulty for Sinn Fein of any time penalty before entry into talks after any ceasefire was declared it was important, however, to bear in mind that in political terms, the Lisburn bombing had made a considerable difference to what he could do.

4. Mr Hume said he well understood the politics of the situation in which the Prime Minister found himself. He was well aware of the Prime Minister's personal commitment to finding a peaceful outcome and knew that Northern Ireland was at the top of his agenda.

5. The conversation concluded with PUS agreeing to speak to Mr Hume again at the beginning of next week.

Signed

CLIVE BARBOUR
PRIVATE SECRETARY
30 OCTOBER 1996

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