

RESTRICTED - POLICY

fax ~~John Holmes~~ <sup>John Holmes</sup>

Manuscript on the attached reflects further refinements by Michael Pakenham. <sup>N10</sup>



✓ JEH

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Michael Pakenham

Deputy Secretary, Defence and Overseas Affairs

now say that MMs not

going to say anything before

6 January and that she will write to the PM on all

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this before their bilateral next week. So I think this

Mr Ken Lindsay

PS/Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

is now overtaken (but there is a good deal of confusion!)

Dear Ken,

Philip <sup>31/12</sup>

STATEMENT ON "BLOODY SUNDAY"

John Holmes to whom I spoke this morning noted that your Secretary of State was keen to make some sort of statement on "Bloody Sunday" before the Channel 4 documentary is broadcast on Tuesday 6 January. This would mean getting something approved by the Prime Minister over the weekend at the latest. John Holmes asked me to have a first stab at a draft which would not go as far as that we were considering before Christmas, but would still say enough about "Bloody Sunday" to put certain facts on record. It would also make it less necessary/desirable to respond to the television documentary.

I enclose a brief text which we have worked out here, drawing on the earlier draft. Given the holiday season it would be most helpful if you could pass your reactions, comments and proposed changes direct to No 10 by tomorrow afternoon Wednesday 31 December.

Yours ever

Michael

MICHAEL PAKENHAM

cc Mr P Barton, No 10  
Ms J Polley, Cabinet Office  
Mr C Meyer, BE Washington  
Mrs V Sutherland, BE Dublin

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