

CONFIDENTIAL

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SECURITY POLICY & OPERATIONS 1

RECEIVED 25 NOV 1996

REF 169
NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE (B)

FROM: QUENTIN THOMAS
POLITICAL DIRECTOR
25 NOVEMBER 1996
QT/MR/2818

51/023

PS/MICHAEL ANCRAM (L&B)

cc PS/Secretary of State (L&B)
PS/Sir John Wheeler (L&B)
PS/PUS (L&B)
PS/Sir David Fell
Mr Steele
Mr Ray
Mr Bell
Mr Leach
Mr Watkins
Mr Stephens
Mr Hill (L&B)
✓ Mr Perry
Mr Maccabe
Mr Beeton
Mr Whysall (L&B)
Mr Lavery
Ms Mapstone
HMA Dublin
Mr Lamont RID/FCO
Mr Budd Cabinet Office-FAX
Mr Holmes No.10-FAX
Mr Wood (L&B)

ci(A)

on down

HUME/ADAMS: BRIEFING DAVID TRIMBLE

Michael Ancram briefed David Trimble at lunch time today about the Hume/Adams text. He gave the text to Mr Trimble for him to read, but not retain.

2. Mr Trimble's reaction, with rising anger, was that the text was "significantly different" from the briefing the Prime Minister had given him.

3. He focussed on two points. First he said that the Prime Minister had given him an assurance that there would be an explicit reference to the tests set out in paragraph 8 of the Ground Rules. Michael Ancram replied that there was an explicit reference to the need to meet the requirements of paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Ground Rules Command Paper. Mr Trimble said that was inadequate and in any case claimed that it contradicted the earlier statement that "the British and Irish Governments agree that, beyond the unequivocal

- 1 -
CONFIDENTIAL

QT(B)/MR/2818-25.11.96

CONFIDENTIAL

restoration of the IRA ceasefire, these negotiations are without pre-conditions." Michael Ancram rejected that analysis.

4. Second David Trimble took exception to the first tiret describing the process to be followed after a ceasefire namely "meetings with Sinn Fein at various levels to explore with them what assurances could be given and what confidence building measures established." Mr Trimble said that while the Prime Minister had mentioned meetings with Sinn Fein "to explore with them what assurances could be given" he had not mentioned the issue of "confidence building measures". Michael Ancram explained that we saw confidence building measures, in that context, as concerning things which Sinn Fein could do to establish our confidence. Attention was drawn to the penultimate paragraph of the text which made it explicit that confidence building was a two-way street.

5. Mr Trimble was not mollified, flung the paper down and left the room saying that he would tell the Prime Minister this evening that the briefing he had given him last week was not accurate.

[SIGNED]

Q THOMAS
POLITICAL DIRECTOR (L)