42/006

DESK IMMEDIATE

C.C   PS/Secretary of State L,B
       PS/Sir John Wheeler   L,B
       PS/Michael Ancram   L,B
       PS/PUS
       PS/Sir David Fell
       Mr Thomas
       Mr Steele
       Mr Ray
       Mr Bell
       Mr Leach
       Mr Watkins
       Mr Stephens
       Mr Hill
       Mr Perry
       Mr Maccabe
       Mr Beeton
       Mr Lavery
       Ms Mapstone
       Mr Campbell-Bannerma

From : John Holmes

To : Ken Lindsay

Subject: Hume/Adams Initiative

Date: 5/11/96

CONFIDENTIAL

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

5 November 1996

From the Private Secretary

Dear Ken,

HUME/ADAMS INITIATIVE

We spoke following my letter of last night recording what Hume told me about what the IRA would be prepared to say in the event of a new ceasefire. The Prime Minister agrees with the view of your Ministers that the suggested IRA wording does not take us much further, and that we now need to get on with the exercise. I have therefore sent Paddy Teahon this morning the revised text we propose to send to Hume, together with a covering letter. I attach copies. I have also written to Lake to put him in the picture. Again, a copy is attached.

You will see that, as discussed on the telephone, the Prime Minister has made a couple of small changes to the text to be given to Hume, particularly in the second paragraph.

I also attach a revised draft letter to Hume from the Prime Minister, to go with the revised text. As you will see, the tone is adjusted, but not the content. I would be grateful for any rapid comments on this draft. We may of course need to look at it further, once we have the Irish reaction to our text.

We also need to have firmly in mind the requirement to keep up to date both NI and Trimble. We have undertaken to give Trimble the text before we publish anything. In my view, we will need to circulate NI colleagues as soon as we send anything to Hume. We will also need to brief Trimble shortly thereafter.

I am copying this to Jan Polley (Cabinet Office), and by fax to Sir John Kerr in Washington and Veronica Sutherland in Dublin.

Yours ever,
John

JOHN HOLMES

Ken Lindsay Esq
Northern Ireland Office

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