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IN CONFIDENCE



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

5 November 1996

From the Private Secretary

Dee Tany.

NORTHERN IRELAND

You will be interested to see the attached letter I sent to Paddy Teahon this morning, covering a further text we propose to send to John Hume. We are anxious to bring this exercise to a conclusion as soon as possible, not least following the leaks over the weekend.

Hume told me yesterday that, on the question of the permanence of any new ceasefire, the IRA/Sinn Fein would probably be prepared to say that the ceasefire was unequivocal, and that they believed that the statement by the Prime Minister provided the basis for an ending to the conflict and a lasting peace. This would be helpful as far as it goes, but that is not far, frankly.

I will keep you in close touch with developments, and am meanwhile happy to discuss with you further.

Yours ever
John

JOHN HOLMES

The Honorable Anthony Lake

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