



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

5 November 1996

From the Private Secretary

*Dear Paddy,*

Following our discussion last night, I attach the revised text we plan to send to John Hume and subsequently to publish. As I said, we now wish to move fast and would like to give Hume the text as soon as possible. Publication could follow shortly afterwards.

You will see that we have adjusted the text we last received from Hume in various ways to ensure it continues to reflect our policies, but have tried to keep changes to a minimum. There is a new paragraph on what would happen after a ceasefire, to replace the one discussed between us earlier. Your concerns have been taken into account. I trust you will be able to support the result.

In sending the text to John Hume, we would accompany it with a letter explaining further our position, making clear again that the timing of Sinn Fein's entry into negotiations in the event of a ceasefire is dependent on the words used and the actions which follow. We are bound to take time to evaluate any new ceasefire - paragraph 8 of the Groundrules makes that clear in any case.

You should be aware that this text is the product of much consideration here and represents just about the limits of what we are prepared to say, given our overall approach, and the present circumstances. As we discussed, the kind of words Hume has suggested might be used by the IRA/Sinn Fein in the event of a ceasefire, on the question of "permanence", do not seem to us to change the position. And there is no indication of any move forward on other issues such as parallel decommissioning or the consent principle.

*Yours ever*

JOHN HOLMES

Paddy Teahan, Esq.