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From: Jonathan Haslam  
Date: 27 November 1996

JOHN HOLMES

cc: Mr Allan  
Mr Percival  
Miss Warburton

**HUME/ADAMS**

You asked for some thoughts on how we might take the initiative when making public our response to Hume/Adams. This note is predicated on the assumption that the Prime Minister will have the opportunity to make remarks in PMQs tomorrow and that papers will be put in the Libraries of the Commons and Lords at 3.30pm. Similar arrangements would be made for Northern Ireland in whatever form is deemed appropriate by NIO. Downing Street should press release the papers at the same time.

We agreed that it was important to prime some key individuals in the media.

You and NIO officials will wish to consider what notice of our intention is given to the US, the Republic and the constitutional parties in Northern Ireland. We must assume that the moment the Republic is told they will put their interpretation on events.

A timetable of events (which would involve changing the time of the Paisley meeting) could be:

12.30 Northern Ireland Minister in London confidentially briefs the Belfast Telegraph for their final edition (one on the streets after 3.30pm). (We must decide that irrespective of whether a question is asked in the House we will go ahead with formal publication at 3.30pm.)

15.15-15.30 PMQs

15.40 Mayhew or Ancram briefs the Lobby. (Discrete words will have been sent to Irish hacks to be around in the Commons.)

*(Ancram will  
in fact stay  
in Belfast)*

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15.45? PM meets Paisley.

16.30? } PM briefs (with the Minister who spoke to the Lobby)  
17.00? } TV journalists - ie Oakley, Brunson, Peter Snow, Jon Snow,  
Dennis Murray (if we can get him over  
here), Brian O'Connell (RTE).

17.00 or 17.30 PM gives short recorded interviews to  
ITN, BBC, (+BBC Belfast?), and RTE.

17.00 or 17.30 Mayhew or Ancram briefs US correspondents in London.

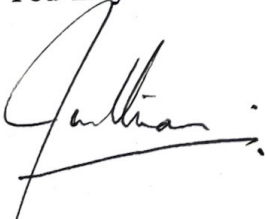
18.00 Mayhew or Ancram to give interview to  
CNN.

Elsewhere Further media bids to be undertaken by  
Ministers in Northern Ireland.

Other Lord Cranbourn to brief Charles Moore  
and Peter Stothard.

Northern Ireland Office to prepare article  
for Belfast Telegraph for Friday morning.

You may wish to discuss.



**JONATHAN HASLAM**

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