



F-6
John

Prime Minister

Andrew H. trying to be helpful. I have told him that, subject to developments overnight, tomorrow's Prices Index too soon, but that Thursday may well be right.

25 November 1996

From: Andrew Hunter

To: John Holmes

Dear John,

Thank you for sparing your time last Thursday evening. I valued and appreciated our review of the current situation. Further reflection and an analysis of various statements over the weekend reinforce my absolute conviction that acquiescence to John Hulme's proposals would be a disaster.

John
25/11

Would it help if I tried to catch the Speaker's eye during PM's Questions on Tuesday or Thursday to ask the following?

Will my Rt Hon Friend confirm:-

(i) that it is not his policy to barter or bargain for an IRA ceasefire

(ii) and that Sinn Fein's self-exclusion from the talks is absolute unless or until there is an unequivocal restoration of the ceasefire and the Provisionals over a period of time establish their commitment to exclusively peaceful means?

You may prefer an alternative question. Perhaps you can let me know as soon as possible. For your records, my office-hours telephone number is 01635 47445 (fax 01635 40532); out-of-office-hours telephone number is [REDACTED]

Yrs wr.

Andrew

Andrew Hunter MP