



File
EMM

bc J. Haslam

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

25 November 1996

LETTER FROM DR PAISLEY

I attach a copy of a fax just received from Dr Paisley, saying that if Sinn Féin join the talks without the surrender of arms and without an unequivocal declaration repudiating violence permanently, and established credibly, his party will leave the talks. It is not clear whether this letter is in the public domain, but it would not be entirely surprising. The Prime Minister is seeing Dr Paisley in the House after Questions on Thursday, in a pre-arranged meeting. My inclination is that there is no need for a written reply, at least in advance of that meeting.

I would be grateful for appropriate briefing for the meeting with Dr Paisley. No doubt you will also want one of your Ministers to be present.

JOHN HOLMES

Robert Crawford Esq
Northern Ireland Office