

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



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John Holmes Esq  
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
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Dear John

*Prime Minister*  
*Paisley has not returned 8 November 1996*  
*to the charge for a few days.*  
*He will, but I suggest we wait*  
*until he does, and then look for*  
*a not-too-urgent date.*  
*Content? John of Ki*

HUME/ADAMS INITIATIVE: DR PAISLEY'S REQUEST FOR A MEETING

Your letter of 4 November requested rapid advice on Dr Paisley's request for an urgent meeting with the Prime Minister.

The request clearly arises from the weekend press coverage of the Hume/Adams initiative, including reports that Mr Hume and Mr Trimble have both discussed this with the Prime Minister.

The DUP's predictable reactions were aired at the Talks on Monday 4 November. In response, the Secretary of State rebutted their allegation that a "secret deal" was on the cards, and stated that the Government would not say anything in private which it would not be prepared to say in public. This and John Hume's helpful public statements seemed to clear the air. The DUP will, however, continue to be suspicious and can be expected to resist any suggestion that Sinn Fein could be brought into the Talks with a firm indication that any new ceasefire was intended to be permanent. They also continue to argue for prior decommissioning.

Against that background my Secretary of State shares your view that there would be little value in the Prime Minister meeting Dr Paisley in present circumstances. It would certainly not produce anything in return and there would be some risk that Paisley could use associated publicity to promote his criticisms of the Hume/Adams initiative. This publicity could add to the difficulty of handling



the publication of any text. Clearly, the request cannot be turned down, but we hope that it could be deferred for at least a few days, perhaps until after text has been published. The fact that Dr Paisley raised his concerns with the Secretary of State during Monday's plenary session of the multi-party talks, and received a full response, may help to justify such a delay.

A possible draft letter to Dr Paisley is attached. I am sending a copy of this letter to Jan Polley at the Cabinet Office.

Yours ever  
David Kyle  
C D KYLE



The Reverend Dr I R K Paisley MP MEP  
House of Commons  
LONDON  
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NOT SENT

November 1996

You telephoned last Sunday to seek a meeting with the Prime Minister in the light of recent press reports.

The Prime Minister would welcome a discussion with you and your colleagues about these matters. He understands that you had an opportunity to reuse your concerns with Sir Patrick Mayhew on Monday at the multi-party talks.

I will contact your office in the next few days to identify a mutually convenient date for the meeting.