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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

6 November 1996

Dear Gen,

HUME/ADAMS INITIATIVE



Teahon rang me this evening to say that the Irish were now working hard on securing the language the Taoiseach and Prime Minister had discussed over the telephone. However, achieving results would inevitably take a little longer than the Taoiseach had suggested. The Irish would probably not be in a position to come back to us, therefore, before Friday morning. I made ritual noises about how difficult this would be, given all the pressures, but did not seriously object.

Teahon also asked whether we had textual problems with what the Irish had proposed, leaving aside the fundamental policy difference between us. I said that we had not looked in detail at the text, since it was all dependent on this policy difference. However I could imagine that, if this difference were resolved, we would certainly want to look carefully at the text. We left it at that, but it might be worth officials having a look at the text in more detail, to see how we would want to change it if we ever got into a negotiation of this kind.

David Trimble also rang this evening, eager for news of where we stood. I gave him a very brief account, but suggested that your Secretary of State would be happy to give him a fuller briefing tomorrow. Trimble accepted this. I would be grateful if you could be in touch with his office tomorrow morning accordingly, unless you see problems with this.

I am copying this to Jan Polley (Cabinet Office) and to Veronica Sutherland in Dublin (by fax).

Yours ever

JOHN HOLMES

Ken Lindsay Esq
Northern Ireland Office

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