

File

From: Alastair Campbell  
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**JOHN HOLMES**

The 9 o'clock news was pretty grim. Relying mainly on Ahern clips earlier, they painted a very downbeat picture, headlining huge differences between us and them, followed by two-way from Denis Murray saying No 10 will have been shocked by some of Ahern's statements. Went on and on in that vein.

I have told journalists neither of them will be doing anything at the end, but if possible it might be an idea for Ahern to do something a bit more upbeat and positive.

You might show this to TB and also can you give me a call when they are through. I am at home.

*Hizzie McGowan*  
cc. ALASTAIR CAMPBELL