



10 DOWNING STREET LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

10 December 1996

Dear Gen.

SINN FEIN

Before the Irish party left yesterday, Paddy Teahon told me that Irish officials would be having a further meeting with Sinn Fein later this week. He did not specify a day. He implied that, whatever the differences between us over a date for Sinn Fein's entry into the talks, the Irish side would be pressing Sinn Fein hard to declare a ceasefire and use strong language in doing so. Teahon seemed incidentally reasonably relaxed about the scratchy nature of the discussions yesterday, and not too unhappy with the outcome.

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

JOHN HOLMES

Yum ere

Ken Lindsay Esq Northern Ireland Office

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