

6. Dec. 1996 13:42

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From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

No. 2423 P. 2/3



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

WHITEHALL  
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

cc - EO  
JH.

John Holmes Esq  
Private Secretary to the  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 1AA

File  
JH  
10/12.

6 December 1996

Dear John,  
HUME/ADAMS

Following BBC's "Question Time", which was broadcast from Belfast last night, John Hume approached the Secretary of State and myself separately. He said that he had now agreed language with Adams which could be used by Sinn Fein either at the same time as a ceasefire announcement by the IRA or separately; it could be used, for instance, next week as a 'scene setter' for a ceasefire announcement, he said.

As arranged, I telephoned Hume when we returned to London and he gave me the following words:-

Our firm intention is to do everything in our power to take the gun out of politics. Our resolution to bring about a negotiated settlement has been/will be persistent. Our determination to do so is enduring. Our commitment to a lasting peace is abiding.

You will recognise these as the words he suggested to you that he would recommend to Adams (your note of 26 November to me). Hume said that he would wait to hear our response on these and a date for

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Sinn Fein's entry into negotiations! It is almost certain that he will get in touch with you again soon but I think your initial reaction when the words were put to you were correct - they provide helpful mood music but are not specific enough. What is really required are meaningful words about a permanent end to violence from the IRA.

I am copying this letter to William Ehrman (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Jan Polley (Cabinet Office), Sir John Kerr, Washington and Veronica Sutherland in Dublin, by fax.

*Yours ever,*

*Ken*

W K LINDSAY

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