

LED 04 DEC 96 17:50

FG.02

NO. 374 002

CC/EO
JH

RESTRICTED



British Embassy
Washington

4 December 1996

Ken Lindsay Esq
Private Secretary
NIO(L)

3100 Massachusetts Ave. N.W.
Washington D.C. 20008-5000

Telephone: (202) 588 6532
Facsimile: (202) 588 7859

File
JH 9/12.

Dear Ken.

TRIMBLE/LAKE

1. As a postscript to the Ambassador's letter of 4 December, I had word with David Trimble this afternoon as he left for the airport after spending an hour usefully briefing Senate and House staffers. He was happy enough with the atmospherics of his call at the White House, but said he was bothered by the emphasis which Gore and Lake had placed on encouraging the IRA to declare a new cease-fire. He feared that before the Anglo-Irish Summit on 9 December there would be further American pressure on HMG to set a date for Sinn Fein entry into talks. It would be a disaster if the Government reversed its decision on this: he would not be able to accept a fixed date. He intended to call at No 10 on his return from Washington to reinforce this point: hence his call this morning (? to John Holmes) to ask for a meeting.

Yours ever,
Peter.

Peter Westmacott

cc: John Holmes Esq, PS/No 10
Richard Lemon Esq, PS/Mr Ancram, NIB
Donald Lamont Esq, RID, FCO

RESTRICTED