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10 DOWNING STREET
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From the Private Secretary

28 November 1996

Dee Ken,

HUME/ADAMS

I should record that I was able to speak to John Hume at about 1200 today to warn him that we were about to publish the text we had sent him. He had already heard rumours and was obviously upset - although I had warned him earlier in the week, following the Adams press conference, that this might make it impossible for us not to publish. He said that he had had an excellent meeting with Adams last night, and had identified the areas of difficulty. He had wanted to give the Prime Minister a private account of this, but now was obviously not the moment.

He then said that there had obviously been a lot of politicking behind our decision to publish. He blamed David Trimble and the Parliamentary position in Westminster for this spurning of a historic opportunity. There was more in the same vein, of a kind which you may have seen in subsequent press interviews yesterday evening. He nevertheless suggested that he would still want to give me an account of what Adams has said, perhaps tomorrow. We shall see.

I am copying this to Jan Polley (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

JOHN HOLMES

Ken Lindsay Esq
Northern Ireland Office

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