

S E C R E T A N D P E R S O N A L

SPEAKING NOTE

You will have been watching with interest and concern developments since John Hume and Gerry Adams announced their intention to report to Dublin on the outcome of their talks.

I can give you a categorical assurance that John Hume has not been acting for the Government in any respect. There have been no proxy negotiations. My position, publicly and privately, is that there can be no talks or negotiations with those who engage in or support the use of violence.

We are not ourselves fully in the picture, and we are waiting for further information or proposals from the Irish Government should it seem to them that there is something worth putting to us.

It is just possible that something serious and important is happening. There may be an opportunity which we have a duty to explore to bring an end to the IRA's violence in Northern Ireland. Hence our need to know what Hume may report.

Be assured too that your interests, the interests of the people of Northern Ireland, will be at the front of our minds in considering anything the Irish Government propose to us, because they are our common interests.

In particular, we shall hold to the principle that Northern Ireland will remain part of the United Kingdom unless and until a majority of the people of Northern Ireland wish otherwise. It is the consent of the people of Northern Ireland that matters - and that is accepted by the Irish Government. Anything less would be contrary to the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

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SECRET AND PERSONAL

There has of course been intense, even fevered, speculation since the Hume/Adams statement. Despite this it is a time for discretion. If anything develops out of this I shall naturally speak to you again in good time.

I have not thought it right at this time to brief others, including Dr Paisley.

Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]
File

SECRETARY OF STATE (R)
MR. [unclear]

JOINT DECLARATION INITIATIVE: PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH
MR. [unclear]

At his meeting on the Joint Declaration initiative on 20 September the Prime Minister indicated that he would seek to reassure Mr. Mulcahy as to the UK's intentions in the wake of intense public speculation about the Hume/Adams statement. I understand that this conversation will probably take place on Blackpool later this week and I attach a draft letter from you to Rodric Lyne covering a script for the Prime Minister to use.

1. The main points we are suggesting the Prime Minister covers include:

- UK has fully in the picture itself - including information from Irish Government
- Duty to give serious consideration to anything which may offer an opportunity for peace

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