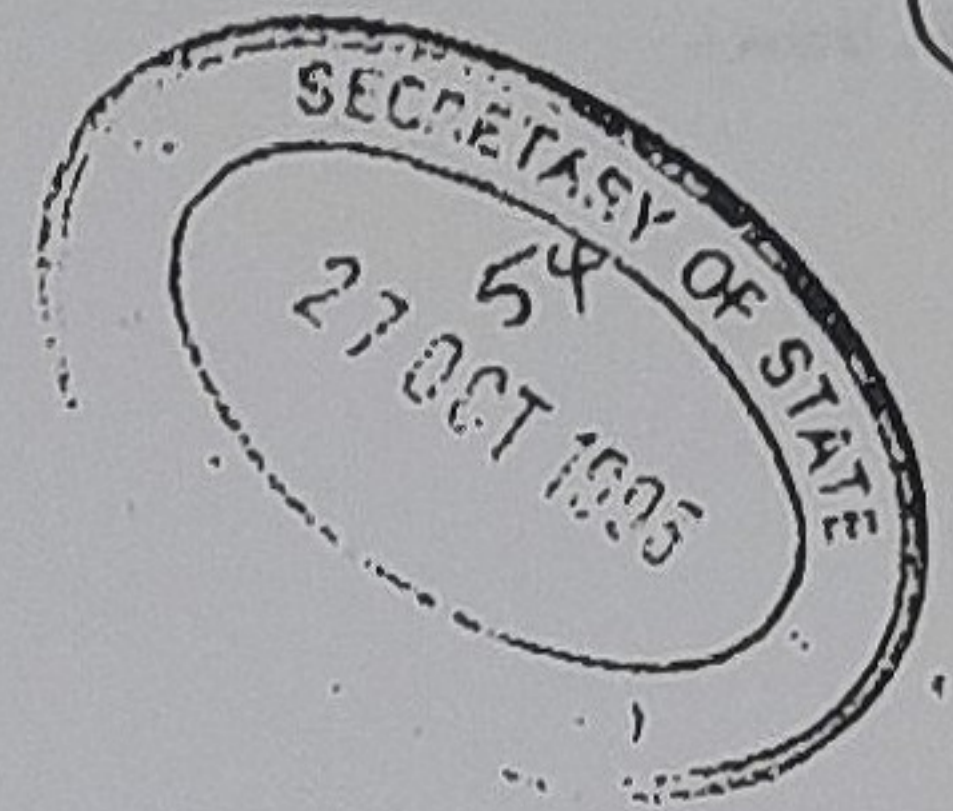




10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA



From the Private Secretary

27 October 1993

cc PS/SofS (L)
PS/PUS (B)

Mr Thomas

Mr Cooke

Mr Beeton

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Joll

Dear Jonathan,

**HUME/ADAMS AND MEETING WITH THE TAOISEACH,
29 OCTOBER**

I have briefed the Prime Minister on your Secretary of State's telephone call late last night, and my parallel discussion with Sir Robin Butler.

Subject to your further views, the Prime Minister would like to write today to Albert Reynolds to propose arrangements for a meeting in Brussels on Friday. I enclose a skeleton draft, to which you will wish to add. I should be grateful if you could send me a revised version this afternoon, as early as possible.

Part of the exercise with the Irish Government will be to try to develop a line for the two sides to take after the Friday meeting.

The Prime Minister would also like to have, as soon as possible and not later than 1700 today, a question and answer brief on Hume/Adams which deals very carefully with the points raised by Sir Patrick Mayhew in our telephone conversation. John Hume's interview in today's Independent has given a further spin to the story. The brief must be consistent with the line taken in Parliament and in various interviews by the Prime Minister and your Secretary of State over the past few days. It would be helpful if you could attach to it some of the key statements which they have made.

Approved
27
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Mylor
Mair

The brief will need to respond to John Hume's statement that "I ... am entitled to expect a very positive examination of what they [the British Government] already know. I am available to meet them at any time if they require any clarification. I would be astonished if the British Government does not take the opportunity that is being offered to them. I know the Irish

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considered the proposal seriously and I know that they regard it as positive."

Both in the brief and in the line recording the outcome with the Taoiseach, the Prime Minister will not wish to slam the door on any future initiative which could lead to a cessation of violence. He would use the line taken by Sir Patrick Mayhew, for example, on Newsnight, that we have responsibility to examine any proposals which might lead to this end, while making clear that such proposals can only succeed if they are acceptable to both communities in Northern Ireland - which manifestly is not the case with Hume/Adams in the present environment.

I am copying this letter and its enclosure to John Sawers (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Melanie Leech (Cabinet Office).

now over
Roderic

RODERIC LYNE

Jonathan Stephens Esq
Northern Ireland Office

Part of our problem is that great expectations are now riding on our encounter in Brussels, even though neither of us has said much about it in public. Indeed, knowing that we will see each other anyway, we have not even given the licence speculation. I think it is absolutely vital that we should be able to emerge from Brussels with an agreed outcome, so that we can brief the Press on parallel lines. As inevitably, we shall not have a huge amount of time for our discussions, could we get our officials to work out in advance tomorrow. Thereby, the rest of problems we could jointly discuss. If this strikes you as the right idea, I hope it will. John Channon will be standing ready to get together with Sir...