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10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

2 December 1993

Dear Jonathan

**NORTHERN IRELAND: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON**

The American Ambassador telephoned me on the morning of 2 December to say that he had received instructions on Northern Ireland, which had also been sent to Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith in Dublin.

The preamble referred to the President's recent telephone conversations with the Prime Minister (on which you may have seen yesterday's fax letter from Peter Westmacott to Graham Archer).

The substance was that the two Ambassadors were to inform the British and Irish Governments of the following points:

- The United States was following efforts to resolve the problem of Northern Ireland with intense interest, and deeply admired the courage and vision being shown by the two Governments.
- The USA strongly supported our joint efforts.
- The United States stood ready to help in an appropriate way.

I have asked Ambassador Seitz to send me this message in writing. I hope to receive it later in the day.

Seitz confirmed the impression that the message was deliberately couched in neutral and non-interventionist terms. He acknowledged privately that there was a continuing tussle in the Administration over the line to take on Ireland. Seitz is of course acutely aware of the need for the USA not to step into the crossfire. He said that the President had no wish to do so either.

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- 2 -

I am sending copies of this letter to John Sawers (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Melanie Leech (Cabinet Office), and by fax to Sir Robin Renwick in Washington.

*Yours sincerely*

3 December 1993

PP RODERIC LYNE

Dear Mr. Stephens

LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER

I enclose a letter from John Hume which was delivered to the Prime Minister at the House of Commons this afternoon, 2 December (though dated 29 November).

I would be grateful if you could discuss the Prime Minister with a draft copy to read after tomorrow's meeting in Dublin. You may also wish to take account of the letter in the briefing which you are preparing.

The point of the letter, as you will see, is to associate Mr. Hume very closely with a set of proposals which perhaps implies agreement with proposals made by the Government in June and to convey Mr. Hume's judgement that these proposals would lead to a total cessation of violence. Mr. Hume's reasons for writing in this way before tomorrow's meeting are transparent.

I am sending copies of this letter to John Sawers (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and to Melanie Leech (Cabinet Office).

*Yours Sincerely*  
*Kay Knipe*

PP RODERIC LYNE

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