

John T. Alderdice, M.B., M.R.C. Psych.
Joan M. Alderdice, M.B., M.R.C. Path.

55 KNOCK ROAD,
BELFAST BT5 6LB.
Tel. No. (0232) 793097

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11 March 1991,

Mr John Hume MP MEP,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear John,

As you know I feel that **we should go ahead and talk without any preconditions.** Some comments however on the sheets Mark sent.

Paras 1-4: No issues.

Para 5: I am puzzled at the sentence on liaison arrangements. It is unclear and imprecise. I fear that this could be a point for further disagreement, and for this reason may be best omitted.

Para 6: The latter half is unobjectionable to me, though as you know I felt that our own proposal that 'the conference meet with Dublin' was a better formulation.

Para 7: 'Within weeks' is acceptable to me.

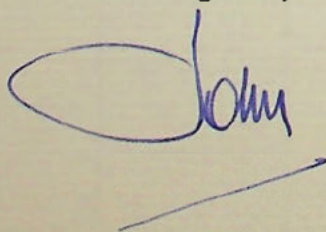
Para 8: The final sentence is odd. His judgement will be also be influenced by other issues than this simple undertaking. No guarantees will be absolute, since at any point any of us may choose to walk out, boycott part of the meeting etc. It is simplistic to suggest that such a complex judgement can be governed **solely** by this one issue.

Para 9: I am unclear as to what is meant by the second half of the second sentence. The fact that there are separate strands implies **different** issues, **different** agendas. This unclear sentence could provide ample room for the sort of filibustering behaviour that would make reaching agreement in the time-scale impossible.

Para 10: Accepted.

I fear that this document leaves too many hostages to fortune. Despite this I do not **object**, for I will not stand in the way of talks. I cannot promise the same if it comes to negotiations. There are, of course, some things I could not accept.

Kind Regards,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right below it.