



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Our Ref JH\JD

29 November 1993

5 Bayview Terrace  
DERRY  
BT48 7EE

Rt Hon John Major MP  
The Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1A

Dear Prime Minister

In the light of recent events I am writing to express my concern lest a major opportunity for lasting peace in Ireland will be lost. As I have made publicly clear I think it would be a serious and irresponsible error for any party to play party or personality politics with recent revelations or to seek party advantage. The objective of lasting peace in Ireland is much more important than such petty manoeuvring for ephemeral advantage.

As you are aware, at our meetings in Downing Street, I made clear that I was certain that the proposed joint declaration presented to you in June by Mr Reynolds would lead to a total cessation of its campaign by the IRA. Given my experience of the past 25 years, I do not make such statements lightly.

I would like to outline to you again, as I did on that occasion, the essential substance of that declaration.

- 1 That you would re-state what has already been stated by the present Secretary of State and his predecessor, that the British Government has no selfish interest of any description in Ireland and that your only interest is to see peace, reconciliation and stability established by agreement among the people who inhabit the island.
- 2 That you recognise that, while the Irish people have the right collectively to the exercise of self-determination, the exercise of this right is a matter for agreement between the people of Ireland and that the Irish Government agrees that the exercise of this right must have the consent of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland.
- 3 That both Governments will commit themselves to a process involving themselves and all parties, the objective of which would be agreement among the divided people of Ireland. All participating parties would be totally committed to peaceful and democratic dialogue.





SECRET AND PERSONAL

D & J COOKS  
SIL/CPV  
1 DECEMBER 1993

cc: Mr. Reynolds (via Mr. Stephens) (2)  
Mr. Michael Acheson (1)  
Mr. P. J. [unclear] (1)  
Mr. [unclear] (1)

- 4 While such agreement could take the form of a united independent Ireland it could take any other form that was agreed between the people of Ireland North and South. Whatever form such agreement would take, both Governments would be committed to making the necessary legal or constitutional change that would arise from such agreement.
- 5 That both Governments would set up the framework and agree the timetable for such dialogue to take place and, while your Government would use all its resources and powers of persuasion to ensure that agreement is reached, it must be at all times clear that any such agreement would have to earn the allegiance and agreement of all our traditions and respect their diversity.

I can only restate that if you commit your Government to the process contained in the document given to you by Mr Reynolds in June I believe that it will lead to a total cessation of violence. It is a process that offers no threat to the rights, heritage or ethos of any section of our people. Indeed, the achievement of lasting peace in Ireland after centuries of conflict would be a truly historic achievement which would be acclaimed throughout the world and would create enormous international good-will and practical support.

I am available at the shortest notice if necessary to meet you if you require any clarification of the above.

Yours sincerely

John Hume

1. There is a choice whether, in the crucial sentence in paragraph 4 we concede "concurrently" or press for "separately" as the qualifier for North/South consent. We have one of each in the attached draft.

(SIGNED)

D & J COOKS  
SIL/CPV  
1 DECEMBER 1993  
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cc: Mr. Reynolds