

C O N F I D E N T I A L

File
21

FROM: J A DANIELL
SIL/TPU
5 JANUARY 1994
(X 6587 OAB)

DRAFT LETTER

FILE NUMBER

cc PS/PUS (L&B) - B
Mr Thomas o/r - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Beeton

ADDRESSES'S REFERENCE
PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (L&B) - B

COPIES TO BE SENT TO

Mr/Prime Minister
HUME/ADAMS DIALOGUE

London

In the light of press speculation, which subsequent events suggest may not have been well-founded, No 10 asked for some lines to take in the event of details of the Hume-Adams dialogue being made public. Drafts are attached. For reasons which you appreciate, I think it worth using the covering letter to warn against any precipitate response in the event of publicity.

Hume might be about to publish details of his 'dialogue' with Adams. In fact this now looks less likely as an immediate prospect, given that, on his return from holiday Hume has produced his peace statement, about which I am writing to you separately.

(signed)
J A DANIELL

Nevertheless some contingent lines are attached which also pick up the 'clarification' and 'self-determination' points which have gained prominence during the last week.

It does remain a distinct possibility that details of the Hume-Adams dialogue will become public in the coming weeks. Hume might choose to publicise what went on in the process in order to pre-empt Sinn Fein, or perhaps because he was persuaded that to do so would further the peace process.

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RN/SIL/22550

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DRAFT LETTER

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ADDRESSEE'S REFERENCE

TO:	ENCLOSURES:	COPIES TO BE SENT TO
PS/Prime Minister 10 Downing Street London		

LETTER DRAFTED FOR SIGNATURE BY: PS/SECRETARY OF STATE

You asked for some lines to take against the possibility that John Hume might be about to publish details of his 'dialogue' with Adams. In fact this now looks less likely as an immediate prospect, given that, on his return from holiday Hume has produced his peace statement, about which I am writing to you separately. Nevertheless some contingent lines are attached which also pick up the 'clarification' and 'self-determination' points which have gained prominence during the last week.

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In the event of publication, the attached lines are very much starting points. My Secretary of State feels that we should need to consider very carefully precisely how we would respond in the light of the prevailing circumstances and the content of anything that appears in the media. Particular care would have to be taken over commenting on the relationship, or lack of one, between the process leading up to the Joint Declaration and the Hume/Adams dialogue.

2. Negotiations with the Provisionals through John Hume?

No. Mr Hume's contacts are of course a matter for him alone. No messages have been given by the Government to Mr Hume to pass on to the Provisionals and the Government has entered no negotiations with them, directly or indirectly.

3. Why not clarify the Joint Declaration if that is all that is required to bring about peace?

The Declaration has been agreed by the two Governments, is clear and stands alone. We will not enter into negotiations through the back door by seeking to 'clarify' or shade its meaning.

4. Self-determination

There is no equivocation about this. The Prime Minister has agreed that it is for the people of Ireland alone, by agreement

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LINES TO TAKE

1. Relationship between Joint Declaration and Hume-Adams process?

The Joint Declaration was made by the two Governments and is the product of intensive discussions between them. The two Governments take full responsibility for everything in the text.

The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach made clear their attitude towards the Hume/Adams dialogue at Brussels on 29 October. They acknowledged Mr Hume's courageous and imaginative efforts. But they also agreed that any initiative could be taken only by the two Governments, and there could be no question of them adopting or endorsing a report of the dialogue which had been given to the Taoiseach, and which he had not passed on to the British Government.

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between the two parts respectively, to exercise their right of self-determination on the basis of consent, freely and concurrently given, North and South, to bring about a United Ireland, if that is their wish. He has also, in the Declaration, made clear that the British Government has no selfish strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland. These statements are entirely consistent with the constitutional guarantee whereby Northern Ireland will remain part of the United Kingdom while that in the democratic wish of a greater number of the people of Northern Ireland. That guarantee is reaffirmed by the Prime Minister in paragraph 4 of the Declaration, is accepted by the Taoiseach in paragraph 5 of the Declaration and again by both Governments jointly in paragraph 7 of the Declaration.

5. British Government to encourage agreement on Irish unity?

No. Paragraph 4 of the Declaration commits the British Government to "encourage, facilitate and enable" the achievement of agreement on "peace, stability and reconciliation" in a way that embraces the "totality of relationships".

In his speech to the Dail on 17 December the Taoiseach said "I believe there is hardly anyone in Ireland today who believes that unity is or should be on the immediate political agenda".