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Note on telephone calls from John Hume,
21st and 22nd November, 1990

1. John Hume telephoned from Strasbourg. He has two issues on his mind at present:

- (a) his on-going dialogue with Gerry Adams; and
- (b) how to overcome the "substantial progress" obstacle to getting talks under way.

Dialogue with Adams

2. Hume has today received a message from Adams asking for a private meeting on next Tuesday. Adams also sent Hume the nine page Sinn Fein considered response to Peter Brooke's recent statement in which the Secretary of State argued that the British Government had no longer any economic or strategic interest in remaining in Northern Ireland. (Hume's office is faxing us a copy of this document and we will prepare an early analysis of it).

Substantial progress obstacle

3. In a meeting earlier this week in Strasbourg with Jim Nicholson and Jack Allen of the OUP, both assured him that the Unionists wanted to talk to Dublin as part of the talks process, and that there was no question of their holding up this strand of the talks. They added that three weeks was the maximum period they envisaged before the North-South strand would get under way. Hume suggested to them that, rather than continuing to insist on "substantial progress", they should say that they were going into talks on the basis of their publicly stated position. This would give them all the flexibility and yet all the protection they needed.
4. In a later discussion with Ian Paisley, Hume put the same

points to him. Paisley replied that Unionists were serious about wanting to talk to Dublin. He would consider Hume's points and discuss them with Jim Molyneaux. He would then give his response to Hume's suggestion through Peter Brooke - Unionists were not of course supposed to talk directly to the SDLP!

Presidential Inauguration

4. Hume sounded Paisley out on the possibility of his accepting an invitation to the Presidential Inauguration. Paisley replied that he would not wish to receive an invitation as his presence at the Inauguration would be in the context of the existing constitution.

SDLP Conference

5. Hume was very pleased at the way last weekend's Conference went and, in particular, at the reception given to his own speech. He was also delighted with the very flattering editorial in the Irish Times on the following Monday.
6. Hume was also particularly grateful for the warm message from the Taoiseach to the Conference.

Dermot Gallagher,
22 November, 1990.

cc: PST; PSM; Mr. Nally; PSS: Ms. Anderson.