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Telephone Conversation with John Hume
6th December, 1990

1. John Hume telephoned yesterday evening to say that he had briefed Peter Brooke privately at Westminster about his recent meeting with Gerry Adams. Brooke was accompanied only by his Private Secretary. According to Hume, the Secretary of State appeared interested in Adams' thinking and in Hume's firm belief that he was serious in seeking an alternative way forward to violence.
2. At the conclusion of their discussion, Hume suggested that a senior British official (he mentioned John Chilcot) might visit him at his Donegal home at an early date. Hume would then organise for Adams and Martin McGuinness to call to the house while Chilcot was there. Brooke promised to consider the suggestion and come back to Hume.
3. Hume also said that - to his astonishment - Brooke never once referred to the proposed talks with Unionists during their discussion - neither, of course, did Hume.
4. Hume went on to say that he is under pressure from Adams at the moment to indicate whether Dublin is interested in responding to the signals he has been conveying through Hume, specifically through meeting Adams in strict privacy. In this regard, Adams emphasised to Hume that, if it could be established that Dublin would respond seriously, he would be prepared to go to the IRA Army Council and urge them to consider agreeing to a cessation of violence. Hume's fear at the moment is that, if some response or signal is not returned in the near future, the impetus might well go out of the Adams initiative. I told Hume that I would convey his message at political level.

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Dermot Gallagher,
7 December, 1990.

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