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10 DOWNING STREET
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From the Private Secretary

9 February 1994

TELEPHONE CALL FROM JOHN HUME MP

John Hume telephoned me from Strasbourg on 9 February. He wanted to have a word about his visit to America. I said, a trifle flippantly, that I had caught a brief glimpse of him on television screens largely obscured by a man with a beard.

Hume said that we had quite the wrong impression of the Adams visit. It had put Adams under great pressure to refrain from violence and address the Joint Declaration. Hume's own visit had been an enormous success. He had had meetings with Vice President Gore (who had then issued a press statement) and with Tony Lake. He had lunched with Speaker Foley. He had seen Senators Kennedy and Moynihan. They had all expressed their solid support for him and for the Joint Declaration.

I said that the media over here had given a rather different impression. We had been deluged in publicity about Adams. He had been on the defensive for six weeks, and under pressure from a broad swathe of opinion, including from John Hume himself. The American visit had allowed him to escape from this box.

I hoped that the clarification issue was now a thing of the past. We had set out all the points in the Joint Declaration again and again. There was nothing to clarify. Adams had been entirely vague in his utterances on the subject in the USA. Hume said, rather mysteriously, that it would be best to handle any specific points through a written message.

Hume said that he would be in touch again when he came back from Strasbourg next week.

RODERIC LYNE

Jonathan Stephens, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.

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