



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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~~For PST~~ From Ó hUiginn

~~cc:~~ PSS, Mr Teahon, Mr. Dalton

1. I met with John Hume last night. He had received the British draft on Saturday with a covering letter in what seemed identical terms to ours.
2. He had some concern at the terms of the letter e.g. he wondered what exactly in the 10 October draft did not correspond to British policy. He also attached significance to the fact that the Sinn Féin draft had included the concept of consent which was then put to the British, although the British said that this was less valuable than if it was being said by Sinn Féin themselves.
3. His overriding concern is to secure the restoration of the ceasefire at almost any cost and his contacts over the weekend (McGuinness and Adams) was very much oriented in that direction.
4. He feels in essence that the British text would work provided "the process is time-tabled and the Christmas break used creatively", so that Sinn Féin have the comfort of a definite date, even towards the latter part of January rather than an open-ended probation period. He feels the prospect of a Unionist walk-out should not be allowed to paralyse things. He feels they would return after a walkout, and the Forums would be one of the incentives for them not to seek to pull the plug completely.
5. He intends to be in touch with the British and possibly US contacts, to urge changes on the lines of para 4 above. He is also very concerned that the issue is being caught up in the Westminster "numbers game".
6. British officials here stressed the value of an early response to Downing Street, particularly in view of my suggestion to them that further work was needed and no precipitate action be taken in the meantime.

End

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