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NOB: 402-3938



EMBASSY OF IRELAND

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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20038

URGENT

PAX NO: 250

5 OCTOBER 1993

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON

FOR ASST SEC O'RUIGINN FROM NOEL KILKENNY

PST
PSS
Mr F. Murray
Dr Mansfield
(Some of the more
computational language
will be moderate)

1. Attached is a copy of a draft press release which has been sent to John Hume from his wife, Pat.
2. Hume was due to meet this morning with Joe Kennedy and the latter has arranged to give a telephone interview to the Irish Echo immediately following the meeting. Dermot Brangan will be briefed by the Echo after the interview and we will forward his report.

END

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: (2)

TRANSMITTING OPERATOR: MARY SWEENEY

Draft

STATEMENT BY JOHN HUME, SOIP LEADER

EMBARGO 8.00 AM WEDNESDAY 6 OCTOBER 1993

As people are aware I will be briefing the Taoiseach and the Tanaiste on the progress made in the dialogue between Gerry Adams and myself. I welcome the personally supportive and constructive comments by Mr Reynolds, Mr Spring and other members of the Government and look forward to a proper discussion with the Taoiseach and Tanaiste.

In the circumstances I do not believe that it would be appropriate or helpful to make myself available for wholesale media interview at this stage. I am conscious of the strong media and public interest in these matters and recognise the professional role which journalists wish to discharge. I too have a professional role and responsibilities as a serious political leader and hope that people can appreciate the sensitivity of my current tasks and the consequent constraints upon me.

I recognise that people have attached circumstantial shortcomings to the last statement by Mr Adams and myself. Whatever about such shortcomings, I hope that people can recognise that these are fairly irrelevant to the substantive issues involved. I should underline that the most I have asked of anyone at this stage is to suspend their judgement. Knee-jerk rhetoric from anyone can serve no constructive purpose.

In spite of misrepresentations by some, I can assure people - not least members of the Unionist tradition - that my party and I are seeking peace for all not victory for some. Peace can only come from agreement among our various traditions not acquiescence by any. The violence to which we are seeking an end threatens us all. The peace which we are working for would threaten no one.

Violence such as that visited by the IRA and loyalist paramilitaries against people and property can make no contribution to peace or understanding between us or provide security for any of us. Peace can only come through dialogue. That is why I engaged in talks with Gerry Adams and it is to such a peace process that I hope our progress can make a contribution.