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**SECRET**

*to be healthy*  
*(on return)*  
*30/11/93*  
*Do see file*  
*Mr 30/11/93*  
*Research*

(27)

Telephone call from Mr. John Hume  
30 November, 1993

1. I had a telephone call from Mr. John Hume early this morning. He was very agitated about last night's "Panorama" programme where he said it came across that the Irish Government believed the Hume-Adams proposals were "too green". He said this had been widely commented on by his own supporters. It also had a very damaging effect on his developing relationship with the Unionists. (He instanced a comment by Mr. Bill Hastings, the hotelier, being carried on the radio today, to the effect that although Unionist, he supported Hume in what he was trying to do). He repeated again that he had always tried to create a relationship of total trust with the Government, but his only reward seemed to be responses such as this, which seriously damaged his position. In the light of these comments he could only take *it* that he was "on his own". He mentioned that he had consulted Adams and would be writing, with the former's agreement, to the British Prime Minister. However the text would not be communicated to the Irish Government in view of what happened.
2. I explained to him that I had not yet seen the programme and therefore could not comment on it. I assured him the Government were fully conscious of the need for the fullest possible coordination between him and the Irish Government in the present very difficult circumstances. I promised to convey his strong protest.
3. He mentioned also he had been in touch with the clerical intermediary, who had been given a "totally black" picture from Dublin of the current situation. I said I was not aware of the meeting, but it was true that the analysis of the Government was rather pessimistic at present. It seemed

from the revelations which had been made that there was now a tactical game afoot, rather than the more imaginative psychological response which would probably be necessary to bring the Provos into the political process. Moreover the accusations of tactical games were not confined to the British, given the fact that on the face of it the Provisionals seemed to have been willing to manipulate both himself, and to some extent the Irish Government, in their pattern of contacts with the British.

Sean O hUiginn  
30 November, 1993