

RESTRICTED

001514
MDHIAN 7903

RESTRICTED
FM CANBERRA
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 757
OF 270600Z NOVEMBER 87

OUR TELNO 755

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

1. MR AHERN DULY APPROACHED THE GOVERNOR ON 26 NOVEMBER WITH A DOCUMENT SIGNED BY 48 PARLIAMENTARY MEMBERS OF THE QUEENSLAND NATIONAL PARTY, IE ALL MEMBERS EXCEPT SIR JOH, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR HIM, AHERN, AS PARTY LEADER. THE GOVERNOR, NEVERTHELESS, DECLINED TO WITHDRAW SIR JOH'S COMMISSION AS PREMIER.
2. THE SIMPLEST AND MOST SENSIBLE SOLUTION WOULD BE FOR SIR JOH TO RESIGN BUT HE MAY FIGHT TO THE END. DEVELOPMENTS ARE EXPECTED AT A CABINET MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 30 NOVEMBER AND/OR THE SITTING OF PARLIAMENT FIXED FOR 3 DECEMBER.

LEAHY

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ADDITIONAL 2

PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

NNNN