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10 DOWNING STREET
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From the Private Secretary

1 February 1994

Dear Gerry,

USA\GERRY ADAMS

At the Prime Minister's request, and by agreement with the Foreign Secretary in Washington, I asked the American Ambassador to call this evening. I saw Ray Seitz for about three-quarters of an hour. We are not publicising the call, and will give only a general line on it if asked. I would be grateful if others could show similar reticence.

I enclose a copy of my speaking notes. Seitz will convey the flavour in suitable form to Washington. I placed most emphasis on the need to find constructive ways of rebalancing the situation. I said that we were particularly concerned about the damage done to the Joint Declaration (Seitz mentioned that Jim Molyneaux had cut off contacts with the US Consul General in Belfast, and said that Paisley would be calling on him for a show of publicity). We, therefore, hoped that the Administration would find a way of distancing themselves from statements made by Adams in the United States, while the IRA's campaign of violence continued in the UK.

I warned that there were rumours that Adams might make an offer of a conditional ceasefire, and said it was vital that this should not meet approving noises from the Administration. The Joint Declaration provided a framework for a permanent end to violence. We could not and would not negotiate under a threat of renewed terrorism.

Seitz asked a number of questions, and explained the Administration's position.

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I am sending copies of this letter to Sir Robin Renwick in Washington (by fax), Jonathan Stephens (Northern Ireland Office) and Melanie Leech (Cabinet Office).

*Yours ever
Roderic*

RODERIC LYNE

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office