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Prime Minister

10 DOWNING STREET
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*Somewhat surprisingly,
Lake & I remain on*

2 February 1994

*speaking terms; and
he remains on the
back foot, as he should.*

From the Private Secretary



Dear Jonathan,

Robert.

USA/GERRY ADAMS

This letter should not be copied to any third parties.

Having sent Tony Lake a couple of pretty sharp messages over the last two days, since his abject telephone call on Sunday evening about the Adams visa, I phoned him today to express appreciation of the corrective action taken in Washington on 1 February. I said that the statement made by the President and the Vice President had gone down very well here. The President's televised remarks of yesterday were still running in the news broadcasts and were the lead story in the Evening Standard. This had been helpful.

Lake rather ruefully acknowledged that we did not regard all that he had done over the past few days as helpful. He asked me to let him know if there was anything more that he could do. He said that he had received an account of my conversation yesterday with the US Ambassador. I said that I had been directly reflecting the Prime Minister's views. This had been a very difficult episode. But we were now bent on mounting a counter-attack against Adams, to expose the falsehoods he had uttered in the United States. We were trying to bring together again the coalition of forces which had formed up behind the Joint Declaration. Albert Reynolds had helpfully made a statement today demanding that Adams should respond to the Joint Declaration.

Lake said that **Dr Alderdice** would be calling at the White House. He asked if it would be helpful if he dropped in on this meeting, to show high level interest. I said that this would be very useful. Alderdice was a good and brave man. Lake said that he would also be seeing John Hume. I said it seemed to me that Hume had made a serious miscalculation when he supported the Adams visa application. So, frankly, had the Taoiseach. Adams had managed to put both Hume and the Taoiseach in the shade and to present himself to America as

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the face of Irish nationalism. This distortion did Hume no good at all. We would be seeking to work with Hume both to bring the IRA under renewed pressure to accept the Joint Declaration, and to make progress in the talks process.

Lake (like Ray Seitz in a conversation this morning) expressed embarrassment about an article in today's New York Times by Johnny Apple. (You can find it also on the front page of the International Herald Tribune.) This quotes a "White House tactician" as saying that the only downside to the Adams decision was "that it obviously ticks off the Brits, but that is equally obviously acceptable to a lot of us". Lake said that this remark had not come from any member of the National Security Council. ("We are not tacticians!") I said that it was not making headlines over here. We knew that a journalist writing a story could normally find a quotation to fit.

The whole conversation was amicable on both sides. There was no need to rub in the points we have already made pretty sharply. They have clearly gone home.

I am sending copies of this letter to John Sawers (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and to Melanie Leech (Cabinet Office), and by fax to Sir Robin Renwick in Washington.

Yours ever,

Roderic

RODERIC LYNE

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Northern Ireland Office

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