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**Title:** Letter from a member of staff in the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations, New York, USA, to SG Ronan, Assistant Secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs, regarding efforts to arrange a meeting between John Hume MP and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, U Thant.

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H17/153/4  
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30th July, 1970

Dear Assistant Secretary,

With reference to your cable No. 213 of yesterday and our telephone conversation yesterday evening, about the visit of Mr. John Hume M.P., the Permanent Representative ~~is~~ on a few days local leave in the vicinity of New York. Mr. Hume telephoned me in the late morning of yesterday, and I tentatively arranged for him and his party (Mr. Duffy and Fr. Eustace) to have lunch with me in the UN today. However, it now transpires that an appointment has been arranged for them with Archbishop Boland of Newark at 2.00 p.m. this afternoon. Accordingly Mr. Hume will come to the Mission later this afternoon if he can and I will show him around the UN.

2. As I mentioned to you in our 'phone conversation, he asked me about the possibility of seeing the S.G. It so happened that the Permanent Representative was still in town and we discussed the matter over the 'phone. He decided that it would be better for me to 'phone you putting forward possible courses of action as they appeared to us, viz.,

- (1) We could enquire of the Secretariat whether a direct approach by Mr. Hume to the Secretary-General's office seeking an interview would be successful. The Permanent Representative was doubtful about this because the Stormont Parliament is not a national legislature of a member state but only a subordinate one.
- (2) The second possibility might be for Mr. Hume to ask to be

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received by someone like Dr. Bunche. The Permanent Representative wondered whether Mr. Hume would really be interested in seeing anyone except the S.G.

(3) The third possibility that occurred to the Permanent Representative was that he himself could ask to be received by the S.G. and bring Mr. Hume along with him. We did not know;

- (a) whether the Department would wish us to do this,
- (b) whether the S.G. would agree to such an arrangement, and
- (c) whether Mr. Hume himself would favour such a procedure.

There would, of course, inevitably be publicity in the newsmedia either because the visit would be picked up by one or more of the journalists in the UN or because Mr. Hume himself would mention it.

3. You were inclined to feel that courses (1) or (2) would be the best. This morning I tried to speak to Mr. Lemieux of the S.G.'s office, who is always helpful, but found him on leave. In his absence I spoke to the S.G.'s private secretary, Mrs. Mira. I explained that Mr. Hume was a highly respected M.P. at Stormont. She undertook to find out whether a direct request from a Stormont M.P. for an interview with the S.G. would be entertained. About half-an-hour later she telephoned me back to say that she had spoken to the S.G. himself who regretted that because of a very heavy schedule this week and next it would not be possible for him to receive Mr. Hume. I have so informed the Permanent Representative and Mr. Hume (who quite understands the position).

Yours sincerely,

S.G. Ronan Esq.,  
Assistant Secretary  
Department of External Affairs  
Dublin