

MBASÁID NA hÉIREANN, LONDAIN



IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON

17 June, 1996.

The Rt. Hon. John Major, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON SW1.

17, GROSVENOR PLACE,
SW1X 7HR

Telephone: 0171-235 2171

Direct Line: 0171-201 2

Fax: 0171-245 6961

File

Prime Minister
Good letter.
John 17/6.

Dear Prime Minister

I write to thank you and Mrs. Major for the kind invitation to join you for the ceremony of Trooping the Colour on Saturday and the subsequent reception at No. 10. What should have been a colourful and joyous celebration of Her Majesty's 70th birthday was marred by the news of the horrific bombing in Manchester. No doubt that was part of the IRA's intention.

While watching the Irish Guards and listening to the Irish tunes I felt again how good it would be if we could acknowledge and celebrate what we have in common. We are beginning to do this. The Taoiseach's attendance at the Islandbridge ceremony last year and the President's recent visit to St Patrick's Chapel in Westminster Cathedral, which commemorates those Irishmen who fell in the First World War, is part of an effort to escape the shackles of history and to reconcile our peoples. But there are those who want no escape and desire no reconciliation. The bombers shatter lives, but they also threaten the hopes and wishes of the vast majority of the people of these islands.

I was encouraged by your words on Saturday and I know that the Taoiseach was too.

Yours sincerely
Ted Barrington

Ted Barrington
Ambassador