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THE PRIME MINISTER

**SUBJECT  
MASTER**

12 June 1996

**Filed on:**

*Dear Martti,*

I am delighted that Harri Holkeri has agreed to renew his valuable involvement in Northern Ireland through acting as alternate chairman in the negotiations to Senator Mitchell and General de Chastelain. I am very grateful for your and the Finnish Government's support, not least in providing practical support to Mr. Holkeri.

I know you will be watching closely developments in the negotiations, which John Bruton and I inaugurated earlier this week.

The first two days have been far from easy, but the process has survived and most of the parties have shown a willingness to make compromises. The independent chairmen have now been successfully appointed. This is moderately encouraging, and we shall go on doing all we can to enable the talks to move forward.

I look forward to seeing you in Florence next week and meanwhile send you my very best wishes.

*Yours Ever,*  
*John*

His Excellency Martti Oiva Kalevi Ahtisaari

AS