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LONDON SW1A 2AA

FAX to NIO?
FAXED
Dublin?
To NIO
HMA Dublin. 18/7/96
JH.

THE PRIME MINISTER
PERSONAL

18 July 1996

Dear Robin,

I know how shocked you must be feeling at the dreadful events of last week, and the deep scars they have left on both communities. I share your distress - and I want to thank you for the heroic efforts you made, with your fellow church leaders, to avert tragedy. I had hoped until the very last minute that a local accommodation would be possible, and was desperately disappointed that this did not in the end prove to be the case.

The recriminations over what happened subsequently will no doubt continue. I doubt if the very different views will ever be reconcilable. But I believe the only real response now is to look forward and try to turn the disaster into an opportunity by jolting the Belfast talks into real action. I believe there is a reasonable prospect of this. We shall certainly do all we can to bring it about. We have to show that dialogue can produce results.

I hope we will be able to meet again before too long. Meanwhile I look forward to hearing at first hand from Brian Mawhinney your own thoughts and concerns at this very difficult time.

Yours sincerely,
John H.

The Most Reverend His Grace The Lord Primate of All Ireland