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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

13 September 1996

IRISH JOURNALISTS

Thank you for your letter of 20 August suggesting that the Prime Minister agree to speak to a group of Irish journalists in the UK for a meeting of the British/Irish Inter Parliamentary Body from 23 to 25 September. The Prime Minister is willing to do this in principle. It was agreed earlier this year that we should make a greater PR effort in the Republic, and this would fit in.

However, it is not easy to fit this into the diary. Perhaps you could liaise with Arabella Warburton here about this. Even if we can fix a time, we may need to put in a stronger than usual caveat that cancellation at short notice cannot be excluded.

I would be grateful if, on the assumption that the meeting goes ahead, I could receive co-ordinated briefing from you and the NIO on Friday 20 September.

I am copying this letter to Ken Lindsay (Northern Ireland Office).

JOHN HOLMES

S.J. Sharpe, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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