

CONFIDENTIAL *file*

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

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SUBJECT
MASTER *bc RB*
Filed on:

From the Private Secretary

13 February 1997

Dear Gen,

NORTHERN IRELAND GRAND COMMITTEE

The Prime Minister and Sir Patrick Mayhew discussed how to take forward the Government's proposals for reform of the Grand Committee. It was agreed that we should bring forward the Orders soon, without waiting for a consensus, which looked impossible to achieve. As far as further proposals made by other parties such as the Ulster Unionists were concerned, we should offer to reduce or even eliminate non-Northern Ireland Members on the Committee. But we should stand firm on our existing proposals as far as dealing with legislation was concerned. Sir Patrick said that he would be making this clear to the Leader of the Ulster Unionists when he met him later today.

I am copying this to Paul Cohen (Lord President's Office), Jane Hope (Lord Privy Seal's Office) and Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office).

Yours ever
John

JOHN HOLMES

Ken Lindsay Esq
Northern Ireland Office

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