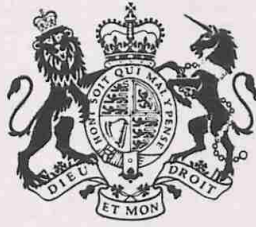


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10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

12 February 1997

*Dear Ken,*

**LETTER FROM MR. TRIMBLE**

Thank you for your letter of 11 February, with advice on the letter from David Trimble and a draft reply. I attach a copy of the reply the Prime Minister has sent.

As you will see, and as I have mentioned to you on the phone, the Prime Minister is particularly keen that rapid progress should be made on the Grand Committee, given his Party Conference pledge. He would like to see it up and running as soon as possible. Perhaps you could keep me in close touch with progress.

The Prime Minister also believes it is only sensible to continue to explore the wider UUP ideas on the political side, despite the difficulty of taking them forward in present circumstances.

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

*Yours  
John*

**JOHN HOLMES**

Ken Lindsay Esq  
Northern Ireland Office

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