



SUSPEND

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

12 February 1997

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 6 February. I do of course recall the paper you handed me on 21 January. I have been following with interest your subsequent discussions with Patrick Mayhew and Michael Ancram. I understand that they hope to have a further meeting with you later this week. [There is no question of not discussing your ideas, although you will understand that it will not be easy to persuade other parties to take them forward.]

On the Northern Ireland Grand Committee, we have been trying hard – as Tony Newton told Martin Smyth last week during Business Questions – to achieve the consensus which would normally be sought before proceeding with changes of this kind. I know that Patrick and Tony Newton are both working hard on as great a measure of agreement as possible. We will announce the results of the consultation shortly, and get things moving. We want to see changes in place very soon.

Yours sincerely,
John H.

David Trimble, Esq., M.P.