



10 DOWNING STREET
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THE PRIME MINISTER

DRAFT LETTER TO JOHN HUME ESQ MP (F:\HUME.KK)

I am glad that Patrick Mayhew will be seeing you and some of the relatives of those who lost their lives on "Bloody Sunday". It is important that the families know that they can put their views directly to the Government.

Naturally the 25th anniversary has been the occasion to remember that terrible day, and for the families to grieve afresh.

I have said before that I regard those killed as innocent of any allegation that they were shot while handling firearms or explosives. I repeat that now. As I told you in the House of Commons on 30 January, I am also willing to have any new evidence about what happened 25 years ago properly looked at by the appropriate authorities, although I remain to be convinced that much good can come from raking over these issues.

Like many others, this Government have not forgotten what happened 25 years ago and the bitter lessons that emerged from it. I am sure all concerned must view those events with ^{profound} [real] regret, just as we must all regret the many deaths that occurred before and since that day. The task is to prevent more deaths through a comprehensive settlement of Northern Ireland's political problems. That is what I shall go on pursuing with all the resolution at my command.