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From: John Holmes**Date: 19 February 1997****PRIME MINISTER****cc: Mr. Barton****NORTHERN IRELAND: DRAFT ARTICLE**

You agreed at the weekend that an article trying to capitalise on the revulsion against IRA violence following the murder of Stephen Restorick would be worth pursuing. I now attach a draft text, which has been cleared by the NIO.

Are you broadly content with something along these lines? I think it needs a little more work, and I have also sent a copy to Cranborne to see if he has any comments. The aim would be to put it in a Northern Ireland paper, perhaps over the weekend.

I should say that Paddy Mayhew and Michael Ancram are in favour of the article, but John Wheeler rang me to say that he had considerable doubts. He did not think it would achieve anything, and might only annoy the Unionists. I do not think he is right, but as you know, he does represent an important viewpoint.

**John Holmes****CONFIDENTIAL**