

*Lower charges
We need to consider also in
light of Helms article*

23.2

From: John Holmes
Date: 21 February 1997

cc: Philip Barton

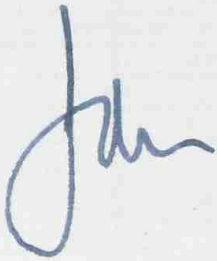
PRIME MINISTER

NORTHERN IRELAND: DRAFT ARTICLE

You saw the draft aimed at ramming home the point about the futility of IRA terrorism earlier in the week, and made one or two comments. But you were not totally sold on the idea. As you know, I showed the draft to the Lord Privy Seal. He thought it was worth doing, and had no comments of substance.

I have fiddled a bit with the version you saw to take account of your concerns and sharpen it in one or two places. If you agree, the idea would be to publish it in a Belfast paper early next week, and also try to place versions in the Irish and American papers, since the message is very much for them too.

Content?



JOHN HOLMES