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File

From: Philip Barton  
Date: 30 March 1997

cc: Mr Holmes

PRIME MINISTER

### POSSIBLE ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN IRA CEASEFIRE

The NIO have just been in touch (2130 Sunday) to let us know than an IRA prisoner in the Maze has been "overheard" saying that the IRA will announce a ceasefire tomorrow evening (Monday). The prisoner in question is not known to have produced useful information in the past, but, according to the NIO, the IRA have deliberately passed information this way before.

We and the NIO had been expecting any announcement of a ceasefire by the IRA at this time to have come at today's Easter parade. But an announcement tomorrow is of course still possible.

PHILIP BARTON

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