

CONFIDENTIAL

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

9 April 1997

Dear Ken,

LINE TO TAKE ON SINN FEIN'S ENTRY INTO TALKS

The Prime Minister has seen your letter of 7 April enclosing a line to take on Sinn Fein's entry into talks. The Prime Minister has already said on air several times that the latest attacks by the IRA put back Sinn Fein's chance of joining the talks. He would like other Ministers commenting on this issue to take the same line.

Your second, provisional line to take in the event the IRA announce a suspension of violence will, of course, need to be looked at in the light of what is actually said.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries of other members of NI and to Jan Polley in the Cabinet Office.

Yours ever,

Philip

PHILIP BARTON

Ken Lindsay Esq
Northern Ireland Office

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