



cc: ~~PS~~

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 May 1997

Dear John,

Letter to Ahern

PPS - N/T
TRY GR?

Thank you for your letter of 16 May.

An additional point to bear in mind is that Ahern (like most of the Irish political establishment) will already have read the Prime Minister's speech last week in detail. You may therefore wish to recast your third paragraph to take account of this, perhaps on the following lines:

"I am also determined to give new impetus to the search for peace in Northern Ireland. I hope that my visit there last week left no-one in any doubt of my Government's commitment to finding a solution. I know that, whatever its complexion, the next Irish Government will share our desire for rapid progress when the talks restart on 3 June."

In official communications, we use the term "Republic of Ireland" rather than "Ireland". To avoid giving offence it is usually possible to use neither. This could be done by omitting "in Ireland" in the first sentence of the last paragraph, or redrafting the paragraph to read:

"Having just completed our own election campaign here, you have my best wishes for the gruelling days ahead of you."

I am copying this letter to David Kyle (Northern Ireland Office).

Yours ever,
Fiona

(Fiona Mylchreest)
Private Secretary

John Holmes Esq
10 Downing Street

Incl - 5th.