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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

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PB

From the Private Secretary

15 July 1997

Dear John,

BLOODY SUNDAY

Thank you for your letter of 14 July, enclosing a draft for the Prime Minister to send to the Taoiseach, responding to the former Taoiseach's letter of 24 June. Although I asked for this draft, on reflection I do not think a reply is worth sending now. The issue was raised by Ahern at his meeting with the Prime Minister a couple of weeks ago, and there is nothing more to be said for now. A purely formal reply on the lines proposed may at this stage only suggest to the Irish that we are going to sit on their paper.

Yours ever
John

JOHN HOLMES

John McKervill Esq
Northern Ireland Office

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