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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

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From the Private Secretary

4 July 1997

Dear Gen,

DRUMCREE

The Prime Minister has done a doorstep this morning, calling on both sides to reflect on their wider responsibilities to the community. He would like to be able to elaborate on this in the course of tomorrow (Saturday) before any decision is announced. The line he would like to take is that, while there is an *a priori* right to walk down public roads, those concerned should think very carefully before they choose to exercise that right in certain circumstances. In his view, while each march has its own characteristics, this right should be waived in certain circumstances, and Drumcree is one of them.

The Prime Minister thinks that this would position the Government reasonably well for what might follow. It would of course be consistent with what Dr. Mowlam is trying to achieve in the course of today. I would be grateful for any comments by this evening.

Yours ever
JH

JOHN HOLMES

K. Lindsay, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.

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