



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

3 September 1997

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Mrs. Reid,

Thank you for your letter of 29 July.

I understand the heartbreak that comes with a loss such as yours. Too many young lives have been lost in Northern Ireland in similar circumstances. A great debt is owed by all of us to fine officers like your son.

Your idea that we could strike a medal of remembrance for the families of those members of the security forces killed in Northern Ireland has been forwarded to the RUC and the Army. They will certainly look into your imaginative suggestion.

Whatever happens about your idea, we will always remember the brave men and women who died serving the people of Northern Ireland. However, I have no doubt that it is also right to do all we can to seek to achieve a fair political accommodation widely acceptable throughout Northern Ireland. Only this can ensure a peaceful future for Northern Ireland. Talking to Sinn Fein does not mean forgetting what the IRA has done over the years. But it may help to prevent further tragedies such as the death of your son.

Do keep in touch on this issue.
With every good wish
Yours sincerely
Tom Blair

Mrs Violet Reid