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PB ok*

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From the Private Secretary

28 August 1997

Dear Sir,

FOREIGN VISITORS TO NORTHERN IRELAND

Thank you for your letter of 13 August. The Prime Minister does indeed believe that visits by other Heads of State and Government to Northern Ireland could usefully help to encourage the political process. We hope that you and the Foreign Office will work closely together to ensure that this happens. One possibility might be to hold one of the regular Summits eg with the French, Germans or Italians, in Belfast. I would be grateful if the FCO could look at the implications of this. How would the French react, for example, if we proposed this for this autumn's Anglo-French Summit?

I am copying this letter, and yours, to Dominick Chilcott (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Jan Polley (Cabinet Office).

Yours
John

JOHN HOLMES

Ken Lindsay Esq
Northern Ireland Office

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