CONFIDENTIAL



File

10 DOWNING STREET LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

12 September 1997

Dee didend,

## NORTHERN IRELAND SETTLEMENT

With the substantive talks about to start (we hope), the Prime Minister would find very useful a more detailed note on what we believe a settlement could/should look like, and a clear indication of where the real points of difficulty will lie. I am not asking for a novel-length paper, but a self-contained note of 10 pages or so would be helpful, with one or two annexes if necessary.

I would be grateful for this as soon as you can produce it, but in any case not later than Thursday next week.

I am copying this letter to Jan Polley (Cabinet Office).

Yan ene

JOHN HOLMES

Richard Lemon Esq Northern Ireland Office