



RESTRICTED - POLICY

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The Rt Hon Dr Mo Mowlam MP
 Secretary of State
 Northern Ireland Office
 11 Millbank
 LONDON
 SW1P 4QE

Letter out

File
JH
16/9.

15 SEP 1997

Dear Mo,

THE CENOTAPH

When I wrote to you on 28 August, in response to your letter of 31 July, I agreed that we should defer a decision on whether Sinn Fein should be invited to be represented at the Cenotaph ceremony until the second week in September. I told you however that, irrespective of the outcome of the current negotiations I would have deep misgivings about including Sinn Fein.

I have to say that my misgivings are as strong as ever. The fact that Sinn Fein had been invited to the ceremony - whether or not they accepted the invitation - would be bound to cause distress to many of the people there, and particularly of course to those who had lost relatives and friends in Northern Ireland. I very much hope that there will be a time when we can properly include Sinn Fein in this and other occasions; but I do not think that time has yet come. I propose therefore, unless I hear from you by Friday 19 September, to send out invitations on the basis set out in my minute of 26 July to the Prime Minister.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Donald Dewar and Ron Davies.

Yours ever,
Jack.

JACK STRAW

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