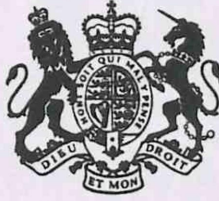


SECRET

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From the Private Secretary

28 July 1997

Dear Sir,

VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND

The Prime Minister would like to visit Northern Ireland again before too long, to demonstrate his continued concern and interest and help put some momentum behind settlement efforts, following the renewed IRA ceasefire.

One possible date would be 2 September. Can you let me know quickly (ie this week) whether you see any political or practical problems with this? If not, I would be grateful if you could start to give some thought to what the Prime Minister might do, bearing in mind the Prime Minister's desire to make the people of Northern Ireland feel that something new and exciting really is happening, and so help put pressure on the politicians.

JOHN HOLMES

John McKervill Esq
Northern Ireland Office

SECRET