

R 23/9



34 White Street
Topsham
Exeter EX3 0AA

21st September, 1997

No reply,

R. G. J.
23/9.

John Holmes, Esq.
Principal Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Dear Mr. Holmes,

It was good of you to take the time and trouble to "put me in the picture" concerning the Northern Ireland situation. I very much appreciate your courtesy.

I had not overlooked the Downing Street Declaration of 1993 but, set against what had gone before and since, I would not have thought it an appropriate reference for reasons which I detail chronologically on a single sheet attached. I may be wrong and I hope you will tell me if I am.

My respects to the Prime Minister and to yourself,

Yours sincerely,

George Canning, Garvagil
Lord Garvagh



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- 1912 Home Rule Bill introduced by Asquith. One Parliament for Ireland.
- 1914 Decision by Asquith to exclude 6 Counties of Northern Ireland from Parliamentary Bill. Opposed by both Unionists and Nationalists.
- Buckingham Palace Conference attended by Lord Craigavon, Carson and my father (4th Baron Garvagh).
- 1916 Insurrection in Dublin.
- 1920/1 Lloyd George produced several different versions of the Anglo-Irish Treaty and Partition Act. Captain Craig, a Southern Unionist (later Lord Craigavon), with whom my father was in agreement, held out for a single Parliament for all Ireland.
- My father ordered to leave Garvagh House in Co. Derry by so-called Ulster Volunteer Force and Sinn Fein - or else. 26,000 acres, Garvagh House, three Manor houses and five farms sold for reputedly 10 shillings an acre. The family left Ireland, never to return. During this period several attempts made on our lives by both factions.
- 1922 Treaty ratified by small majority in Dail Eirean. Civil War in Ireland.
- 1949 Ireland Act presented to Parliament and passed by Mr. Atlee's Ministry.

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