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10 DOWNING STREET
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file

From the Private Secretary

24 October 1997

Dear Richard,

FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT

Thank you for your letter of 24 October and the draft letter from Mr Murphy to David Trimble. I note in passing that I suggested to Ken Lindsay before the paper on constitutional issues was tabled that the sentence picked up by the UUP was unnecessary and could provoke a response.

As far as the draft reply is concerned, I attach a copy on which I have suggested some amendments. Those in the second, third and fourth paragraphs are designed to avoid irritating the Unionists unnecessarily and reflect more closely the spirit in which the Prime Minister has discussed the JFD with the UUP, while not resiling from the JFD. I have also suggested deleting the last two paragraphs. They do not seem to me to add much of substance, and the obviously careful phrasing is more likely to arouse than allay suspicion.

I am copying this letter to Ken Lindsay (Northern Ireland Office).

Yours
John

JOHN HOLMES

Richard Lemon, Esq.
Northern Ireland Office.

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