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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

File MFG

From the Principal Private Secretary

16 October 1997

Dear Ken,

FOREIGN VISITORS TO NORTHERN IRELAND

Richard Lemon's letter of 10 September brought out the desirability of holding one of the EU informal meetings in Northern Ireland, and suggested that the regional policy informal might be most appropriate. Dominick Chilcott's letter endorsed the principle but said that this was a matter for the Departments concerned. This letter is simply to record the Prime Minister's continuing support for at least one EU meeting to be held in Northern Ireland to demonstrate international interest and confidence in returning normality. I hope that agreement between departments can therefore be reached quickly.

I am copying this to Jeff Jacobs (Deputy Prime Minister's Office), Dominick Chilcott (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), John Alty (Department of Trade and Industry), Michael Lugton (Scottish Office), June Milligan (Welsh Office) and Jan Polley (Cabinet Office).

JOHN HOLMES

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