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THE PRIME MINISTER

6 November 1997

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I was very sorry to learn of your resignation as Leader of the Labour Party yesterday, although I understand why you feel it is time for someone else to take on the job. I have greatly admired the dignified way in which you have led your party, both in Government and in Opposition.

I have very much enjoyed working with you both to strengthen the links between our two parties and to take forward the search for a lasting settlement in Northern Ireland.

I wish you every success with whatever you turn your hand to next.

You were always a joy to work
with & someone whose contribution'
will be long remembered.

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John Spring TD

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Mr Dick Spring TD