

RESTRICTED



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*True 6AM  
cc/B*

From the Principal Private Secretary

19 December 1997

*Dear Ken,*

**NORTHERN IRELAND: PROPOSED INVITATION TO  
PRESIDENT MANDELA**

The Prime Minister was interested to see Dr Mowlam's minute of 12 December. He strongly supports the idea of such a visit, and is content with the proposed approach to Mandela by Dr Mowlam. Although he appreciates the difficulties, the Prime Minister believes that a visit by Mandela earlier than September, for example around the time of the hoped for conclusion of the talks, would be excellent if it could be achieved.

I am copying this letter to Fiona Mylchreest (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

*Yours  
John*

JOHN HOLMES

Ken Lindsay Esq  
Northern Ireland Office

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