

PM'S COMMS-CABINET OFFICE

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From: John Holmes
Date: 2 January 1998

PRIME MINISTER**NORTHERN IRELAND: MAZE INQUIRY**

I attach possible terms of reference for an inquiry by Lord Lloyd. These were drawn up before your recent conversations with Mo.

Since your last conversation this morning, she has suggested that a possible fall-back could be to extend the terms of reference of the inquiry headed by Narey, and undertake to publish both his report and Ramsbotham's inspection report. This might be enough to satisfy the UUP, and apparently fits in with one of the things Trimble said on the radio this morning.

You may like to have this in your mind when you are talking to Trimble, and may want to deploy it, depending on how the conversation goes.

The underlying problem, as you will recognise, is that the Unionists, under pressure from hard line elements, are using the Maze issue as a stick with which to beat Mo.

In talking to Trimble, you will need to be clear about what he can say publicly afterwards. Any new inquiry or extension of an existing inquiry is for us to announce, not him.

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In general, you will want to try to get Trimble back on the big picture. The current violence is further reason to make sure the talks work, not to threaten to collapse them.

We have spoken since I drafted this. I also attach some press cuttings to give you a flavour.

John Holmes

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