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From: THE PRIME MINISTER

Date: 24 January 1998

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JoP

CONVERSATION WITH GERRY ADAMS, 24 JANUARY

We must chase up on the family strategy. At the moment it is a Cacuna.

Also, could you get Anji to speak to me about Lord Snowdon.

Can we fix a meeting with John Major on Wednesday about Northern Ireland.

Meanwhile, Sinn Fein were in their own bind. It was manageable, although he did not want to under-estimate the difficulty. But this depended on both Governments keeping to what they had said in the Framework Document and negotiating upwards from there. He had had no notice of the IRA statement, but thought it was "OK". It would help to steady their people. It was better if they were saying or doing something like this than for nothing to be happening. But we could not afford a re-run of what had happened in the run up to the Heads of Agreement paper. Any new paper being prepared on Strand II had to reflect not options but the Framework Document. There had to be clarity on the issue of cross-border bodies with executive powers, and clarity on the equality issues. The latter should not be held hostage to the talks, since they were justified in their own right. People needed to see a clear road forward through an internal settlement and meaningful North/South structures. He had asked Martin McGuinness to convey

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