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HMA
(Washington)

THE PRIME MINISTER

9 February 1998

Dear Rev. Malloy,

Many thanks for your very kind invitation, passed to me by John Hume, to be the principal speaker and receive an honorary degree at your University's Commencement exercises on 17 May 1998. I am truly honoured.

I am grateful for your supportive words about this Government's efforts to achieve peace in Northern Ireland. We are working closely with all the talks participants, including John Hume, to achieve this.

Sadly, I regret that my diary commitments make it impossible for me to be with you at Notre Dame, and I must therefore regretfully decline your kind invitation. I am so sorry to have to send a disappointing reply, but I would like to wish you and all your colleagues every success for 1998.

Yours sincerely
Tony Blair

The Reverend Edward Malloy

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