

DRAFT REPLY FOR SIGNATURE BY PRIME MINISTER

The Reverend Edward A Molloy CSC
President
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame
Indiana
46556-5641

February 1998

Many thanks for your very kind invitation, passed to me by John Hume ~~earlier this month~~, 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 ~~most~~ kind invitation. I am so sorry to have to send such a disappointing reply, but I would like to wish you and all your colleagues every success for 1998.