

MCCARTNEY MP



File  
a.k.

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From the Private Secretary

Dear Ken,

**ROBERT MCCARTNEY MP**

As I mentioned to you on the telephone, McCartney's office rang me this afternoon to press for a meeting between McCartney and the Prime Minister urgently, in particular before next Thursday's expected statement by the Prime Minister. I disabused them of the notion that the Prime Minister was planning to make a statement on Thursday, and said that the diary was particularly difficult, not least because it was Budget week. But I promised to look at the request. As we agreed, it would be helpful to have some advice. Personally, I see no reason to be accommodating to McCartney, given his attitude, and would see no harm in signalling this gently. I doubt the Prime Minister will be in any hurry to see him.

Yours ever

**JOHN HOLMES**

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Northern Ireland Office