

DRAFT REPLY FROM PRIME MINISTER

You will by now have seen that we have announced the appointment of Chief Justice Hoyt, together with that of Sir Edward Somers from New Zealand, to be a member of the Tribunal on "Bloody Sunday". I gather that Lord Saville <sup>is</sup> ~~will be meeting his two new colleagues in Vancouver this weekend for an informal meeting.~~ *to start the ball rolling.*

I am very grateful to you for the personal interest you have taken in this. The Tribunal's work is undoubtedly going to be difficult but I believe that it has an important role to play in the process of reconciliation in Northern Ireland and helping people there come to terms with the past. This is yet another tangible contribution by Canada, in addition to John de Chastelain's work in the talks and Decommissioning Commission, and Canada's contributions to the International Fund for Ireland. I am very conscious of this continuing help, *and very appreciative of it.*

Mr Jean Chretien  
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Ottawa