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From the Principal Private Secretary

23 March 1998

Dee Ken,

PROPOSED POLICE COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

The Prime Minister was grateful for Dr Mowlam's undated minute about the establishment of a Royal Commission to examine policing in Northern Ireland, and the linked criminal justice issues. Subject to the views of other colleagues, the Prime Minister is content with the idea of promoting a Royal Commission. He does not believe that it should be headed by a foreign figure. There may be scope for a foreign member, for example, a Commonwealth judicial figure, and perhaps also for an international academic with the right experience, who might conceivably be an American.

The Prime Minister is also content with the proposed Strand I paper. When exactly do you propose to table this?

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the other members of IN, to the Private Secretaries to the Scottish Secretary and the Attorney General, and to Jan Polley (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever
John

JOHN HOLMES

Ken Lindsay Esq
Northern Ireland Office

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