SECRET



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From the Principal Private Secretary

30 March 1998

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REPUBLICAN VIOLENCE

Whether or not there is a settlement in the short-term, as we hope, this will provide a significant security challenge. The Prime Minister would be interested to see an account of how we plan to meet this challenge, in co-operation with the Irish Government, who have had some striking recent successes in finding bombs and weapons. It would be useful to have at least a preliminary view by Easter.

I am copying this to John Grant (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Ken Sutton (Home Office), Tom McKane (Ministry of Defence) and Jan Polley (Cabinet Office).

JOHN HOLMES

Ken Lindsay Esq Northern Ireland Office