



10 DOWNING STREET
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From the Private Secretary

23 April 1996

You wrote to Dr. Mawhinney in January about the possibility of the Prime Minister or the Chancellor of the Exchequer participating in the Economic Development Conference which you are organising in Belfast next month. Dr. Mawhinney passed your letter to us.

I am sorry that you have not had a formal reply before now. The Prime Minister was grateful for your invitation to participate. Although he will not be able to attend himself, he is glad that a Northern Ireland Office Minister will be giving a keynote address at the opening plenary session.

The Prime Minister is delighted that a full range of international speakers has been lined up for this event and sends his very best wishes for its success, building on the positive elements of the Investment Conference which he helped promote in Belfast in December 1994 and its Washington counterpart in May 1995.

EDWARD OAKDEN

Councillor Reginald Empey, O.B.E.

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