



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

NLE
ED/LOCAL DCA

cc J. Hassan

From the Private Secretary

29 March 1996

**PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT LEADERS**

You will remember that we postponed this meeting in the wake of the end of the IRA ceasefire and the Docklands bomb. In my circular letter to Leaders of the District Councils explaining the postponement, I said that the Prime Minister hoped to reschedule "before too long".

I should be grateful for your views on when we should be seeking to reinstate this meeting. From here, I am not conscious of great pressure to reinstate it soon; and, on balance, the potential downsides of going ahead in current circumstances still seem to outweigh the benefits. But I should be grateful for your advice.

EDWARD OAKDEN

Robert Crawford Esq
Northern Ireland Office

AS