



S.
Ireland

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

3 September 1979

Dear Lord Blease,

I am very grateful for your kind message to me about Northern Ireland.

The bipartisan approach to the British Government's policies in Northern Ireland is an essential basis for progress towards an eventual solution and in the continuing struggle against terrorism. I very much appreciate the strong endorsement which your message gives to this approach and to the Government's efforts.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) M.T.

The Lord Blease of Cromac

TMW

LORD BLEASE OF CROMAC TELEPHONED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO
THE PRIME MINISTER:

"I warmly compliment the Prime Minister on her prompt visit to Northern Ireland at this sad and critical time. It has been warmly appreciated by all people of goodwill. Unquestionably the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland is facing more entrenched problems and more sophisticated techniques of criminal terrorism than his predecessors. In his attempts to defeat these evil men, whose methods pose a threat to modern society at large, and in his patience and careful efforts to effect a political reconciliation in Northern Ireland, Mr. Atkins has my full support.

Sgd. Blease of Cromac
(Opposition Spokesman on
Northern Ireland Affairs
in the Lords)