



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

20 June 1980

Dear Dr. Paisley,

Thank you for your telegram of 10 June asking me to meet a group of ladies from South Fermanagh who have been widowed as a result of attacks by terrorists.

As my Private Secretary explained to you, it was not possible for me to meet them last week, and I therefore asked Humphrey Atkins to do so. He has reported to me the meeting which took place on 13 June. I know that he reiterated to you my own determination to eradicate terrorism throughout Northern Ireland. I also know that the security forces are taking all possible steps to combat the threat in South Fermanagh and I hope the coming months will see an improvement there.

Of course I share the grief of those who have lost family and friends through acts of terrorism. I should like to convey this personally to the four widows who attended the meeting at Stormont Castle and who, I understand, have a number of letters they wish to give me. Since this will be an occasion when I shall be expressing my personal sympathy to those who have suffered, I should prefer the widows to come to No. 10 unaccompanied. I am sure you will understand.

Perhaps someone would be good enough to contact my office to make arrangements for this visit.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

The Reverend Dr. Ian Paisley, MP.