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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

7 December 1979

Mr A Hume

I know that in discussion with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland you have expressed your concern, which is shared by all those who represent the people of Northern Ireland, about the continuing violence and terrorism. There can be no doubt about the Government's determination to defeat it. You will be aware that I invited your predecessor as leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party to discuss the security problem with me and the Secretary of State. I am writing now to extend that invitation to you as the new leader of your party. I have already met Mr. Molyneaux and Dr. Paisley for the same purpose.

If you would like to accept this invitation, I should be grateful if you would get in touch with my office to arrange a suitable date.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

John Hume, Esq.

JFH