



HOUSE OF COMMONS LONDON SWIA OAA

27 January, 1981.

Dear Prime Minister

Even before the public rebuff offered to Humphrey in connection with the late Sir Norman Stronge's funeral, I had decided, after being in the province during the weekend, that I ought to let you know personally what have been the reactions to last week's atrocious murders in Tynan, County Armagh, and Warrenpoint, County Down.

As you are aware, these could only happen because the perpetrators knew that in a few minutes they would be back in the territory of the Republic whence they had come and where they would be perfectly safe from punishment or extradition. People simply do not understand how Her Majesty's Government can be about to engage in friendly political discussion with the government of a country whose constitution makes such things possible.

You will not, I know, have overlooked the wider bearings of the points which I put to you in my letter of 10 December; but I did feel that the above might be useful fresh background to any decisions that have to be taken.

yours ever

PS I take the opportunity of thanking you for your reply of 23 January to my letter of 13 January, which I received on getting back to the House last night. Your confirmation in it that arrangements for joint studies are still at a preliminary stage leads me to hope that what I have written could be found relevant.

The Right Honourable Mrs Margaret Thatcher, MP., 10 Downing Street, London, SW1.