



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

8 February, 1983.

Mr. Robinson,

Thank you for your letter of 10 December about the proposal to place a memorial plaque in the Chamber of the House in memory of the late Reverend Robert Bradford M.P. I am sorry not to have replied more quickly. I wanted to consider your request carefully and to discuss it with some of my colleagues.

It is not, of course, for the Government to take an initiative in this matter. It is entirely for the House to decide what it is right and fitting to put in the Chamber. You, therefore, properly asked me, as Party Leader, what I felt the opinion of my Party members might be.

I do not claim to be able to give a comprehensive answer to that question. But the discussions I have had indicate that there is more than one view. It is felt, for example, that the assassination of Airey Neave was exceptional, especially in that it took place at the House itself. There is also some anxiety whether it would be wise or appropriate to regard the action taken in the case of Airey Neave as a precedent to be followed in other cases of terrorist atrocities against Members of Parliament.

/I do not



I do not wish to suggest that these reservations are universal. But I have to say that they exist. They do not imply any lack of respect for Robert Bradford's memory or any weakening of the abhorrence which all decent people feel about the circumstances in which he met his death.

Yours sincerely

Nagendra Chandra

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Alderman Peter Robinson, M.P.,