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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 November 1981

Dear Mr. Howell

CPA Delegation

Thank you for your telegram, sent from Sydney on 19 November, concerning information on the situation in Mr. Ross's constituency and at his home. I understand that the response to your request must have reached you very soon after you sent your telegram.

I assure you that the delegation's request for information was treated as a matter of priority in London and that a response was sent within hours on the day it was received. Regrettably the telegram, although given priority precedence, was delayed for technical reasons in reaching Canberra. Mr. Ross will naturally have been worried about what was happening in his constituency and at home, but I hope that he will have appreciated that we would be doing all that could be done, not only to protect his own family but also to counter the violence and disorder that threaten everyone in Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

The Rt. Hon. Denis Howell, M.P.

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