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HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Parsonage, 17 Cyprus Avenue, BELFAST BT5 5NT.

The Rt. Hon. The Prime Minister,  
Mrs. Margaret Thatcher MP,  
10 Downing Street,  
LONDON.

25th November 1981.

*Dear Prime Minister,*

R28

Ulster has spoken loudly and clearly. Are you going to heed the message, or do you wish the Ulster people to speak even more forcibly before you will heed their heartrending cry for action against the murderers?

As citizens within the United Kingdom we have demands which we are entitled to make, and once again we spell them out to you.

1. We demand proper security for our people and an all-out war against the IRA murderers. Never before, in an hour of Ulster's crisis, has a large section of the RUC expressed its lack of confidence in its Chief Constable. If the serving members of the RUC have no faith in their Chief how can you expect the people of Northern Ireland to have faith in him? You cannot duck this issue - you must face it. Both the Police and the UDR must be equipped with weaponry better and more powerful than that of the IRA terrorists, and above all, the present political restraints must be removed from the security forces. By refusing to supply this weaponry and to allow meaningful offensive action you are responsible for their slaughter. Honeyed words and pious terms of sympathy will not conceal your guilt. Now is the time for you to give the security forces the backup and local presence which they so desperately need, and therefore I wish to offer to you a vast body of disciplined and dedicated volunteers who could be enlisted in an official 3rd Force to complement the efforts of the RUC and UDR.

2. The London/Dublin Summits in connection with the affairs and destiny of Northern Ireland must be ended forthwith. The Joint Studies provide adequate evidence that what is afoot is a gradual process of all-Ireland integration, and your own U-turn on the oft repeated assurances that the affairs and future of Northern Ireland were a matter only for the people of Northern Ireland, your Government and the Parliament of the United Kingdom, confirms this. Even those opposed to my stand admit that this is what is going on. Whether you care to believe it or not, the people of Ulster are going to resist this to the death.

3. It is quite clear that you have bowed to the bullet and the bomb and that your aim, along with the Dublin Government, is now the same as that of the IRA, namely to bring about an all-Ireland. I must say to you that the people of Northern Ireland reject the bomb and the bullet and demand a return to the ballot and respect for what the ballot comes up with. Why are you so afraid to let the people of Northern Ireland decide their form of Government in a democratic manner? Continued refusal to do this only reinforces the conviction that you are intent on their betrayal.

Except you are prepared to meet the simple and just demands of the Ulster people then they will be left no alternative but to bring home to you their determination not to be slaughtered by Ulster's enemies or to have their heritage within the Union betrayed by you or anyone else.

*Sincerely,  
Ian R.K. Paisley*

IAN R.K. PAISLEY.