



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 December 1983

*Dear Sir*

I was very grateful to you for accompanying me on my visit to Northern Ireland and for the excellent arrangements which your Office made. As previously, I found the visit very encouraging. The warmth of the response of those whom I met in Newtownards is a reminder of the extent to which the great majority of people in Northern Ireland support our efforts for peace and reconciliation; and the professionalism and morale of the security forces are reassuring and impressive.

Please will you pass on my thanks to your Ministers and all the staff of the Northern Ireland Office for the work they do throughout the year to promote peace and prosperity in Ulster. Denis joins me in sending to all of them and to Jane and yourself our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

*Yours*

*James Prior*

The Rt. Hon. James Prior, M.P.