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SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND

Prime Minister.

The Baroness Elles
House of Lords
LONDON
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A. J. C. 74.

10th April 1984

Handwritten signature

Handwritten initials

I should like to put on record my appreciation of all your efforts to secure a reasonably favourable outcome to the European Parliament's political affairs committee's initiative in commissioning Neils Haagerup to produce a report on the situation in Northern Ireland.

The Resolution which emerged from last week's vote at Strasbourg represented the best outcome we could realistically have hoped for and this is in no small measure due to your activity and to the personal relationship you have built up with Mr Haagerup. The Resolution's concentration on economic and social issues of proper concern to the European Parliament represents a major achievement. Its condemnation of violence and of overseas financial support for terrorism, and the support it expresses for those who work to achieve their aims by constitutional democratic means are helpful. I am sure, nevertheless, that the EDG was right to abstain in the final vote; it is wrong in principle for the European Parliament to involve itself in this kind of area and these things have the habit of establishing precedents which are then followed up in unhelpful ways.

One way and another the whole exercise has caused you a great deal of work in the last year or so and I should like to thank you and, through you, your colleagues and assistants in the EDG for playing such a difficult hand so well.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Sir Geoffrey Howe and Sir Henry Plumb.

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