

cc Mr Ingham
Mr Perks
Mr Bean

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Richard Ingham

CDM
10/4

MR POWELL

I have just had a phone call from Lord Fitt, who expressed his full support for the Prime Minister's comments yesterday on the UDR murders, especially the link she saw between the bombing and the Dublin Supreme Court decisions on extradition. He has told Chris Moncrieff of his views, although I have not seen that reflected in today's newspaper reports. He is clearly frustrated that more voices have not been raised in support of the Prime Minister's opinion -- and that Channel Four will be using actors tomorrow to circumvent the broadcasting restrictions on Sinn Fein.

Lord Fitt says that moderate Catholics are being alienated by terrorism and the Irish government and SDLP campaign of vilification against the UDR. He also expects tomorrow's visit to Belfast by Mr Haughey to stimulate large Protestant demonstrations against the Dublin government, and perhaps a walkout at Harland and Wolff. All in all, he is pessimistic about the prospects in the run-up to the sensitive Easter period.

Philip Aylett

PHILIP AYLETT
Press Office
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