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From the Private Secretary

2 February 1994

Dear Jonathan,

PRESS LINE ON NORTHERN IRELAND: WEDNESDAY 2 FEBRUARY

The Prime Minister wants us to take a very firm line in public comment today about Northern Ireland. I enclose the brief from which Christopher Meyer will work in his separate meetings today with British and American correspondents. You agreed over the telephone with this line.

I am sending copies of this letter by fax to Peter Bean in Washington and to John Sawers (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Melanie Leech (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,
Roderic

RODERIC LYNE

Jonathan Stephens Esq
Northern Ireland Office

**NORTHERN IRELAND, NO.10 PRESS LINE, WEDNESDAY
2 FEBRUARY**

We welcome yesterday's statements by President Clinton and Vice President Gore. They back the Joint Declaration and the two Governments. They clearly have no intention of being side-tracked by Gerry Adams.

It is patent nonsense for Adams to claim that "the ball is at Britain's feet".

Sinn Fein have been challenged to give up violence. They have not done so. They have been challenged to enter the democratic arena. They have not so far had the courage to take up that challenge.

They do not seem to know where they are going. Adams tried to tell the Americans that he favoured peace, while his movement was firing mortars in Northern Ireland. His smoke screen of evasions and falsehoods has not deceived people here and in Ireland.

We are not waiting for Sinn Fein and the Provisionals. We are continuing our work with the constitutional Parties and our close cooperation with the Irish Government. Meetings were held with the constitutional Parties in January as part of the talks process. More meetings are planned. Sir Patrick Mayhew reviewed the situation with Mr Spring in Dublin last Friday. They agreed on the importance of carrying the political talks forward.

If Sinn Fein and the Provisionals wish to become part of the democratic process, they know what they have to do. They must give up violence for good. The Joint Declaration makes this clear.

Progress in Northern Ireland cannot and will not wait for Sinn Fein.

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