24 November 1994,

Dr Brian Walker, Director, Institute of Irish Studies, The Queen's University of Belfast, 8 Fitzwilliam Street, BELFAST BT9 6AW.

Dear Brian,

First of all my sincere apologies for being such a long time in replying to your kind letter. I'm afraid that I have been away a good deal of late, and have been receiving a lot of correspondence, in my absence, with little time to answer it even when I am here.

I am familiar with some of your work, and especially enjoyed your 'Ulster Politics, The Formative Years 1868-1886', which I read over Christmas, the year before last. I read the material you sent me with great interest. and we are now just coming up to the point when some of this may arise in the Forum, as the different parties present their analyses of the problem.

I am now leaving for South Africa, to look at the situation there, but when I come back I would indeed like to have chat with you, and will try to give you a call as soon as I can.

Thanks for your welcome offer of help, and again apologies for the late reply.

Yours sincerely,

Dr John T Alderdice PARTY LEADER

PS Walter Lewis tells me that you are the C of I subcommittee set up to monitor the ceasefires. Excellent. I have offered Walter that we would be prepared to meet the committee in the New Year if they wish.