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10 DOWNING STREET
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THE PRIME MINISTER

10 April 1996

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 25 March.

I very much welcome your constructive response to our proposals for an elective process. I also appreciate the helpful line you are taking on the Forum. It is crucial that we should not miss this opportunity to make progress.

I know that you are closely in touch with Patrick Mayhew and Michael Ancram on a number of consequential issues. Patrick is anxious to keep abreast of the views of all the parties on these issues as preparations for the necessary legislation proceed. We hope to introduce this next week. Your Party's quick responses continue to be a real help, especially given the inevitably tight time-frame involved.

Patrick Mayhew and I look forward to staying closely in touch with you as the process moves forward through elections to the start of all-party negotiations on 10 June and beyond.

Yours truly,
John

Dr John Alderdice