

RESTRICTED

PRIME MINISTER

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MDHOAN 8969

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T42A/92

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INFO PRIORITY DUBLIN

MIPT FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY

~~DRAFT~~ PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MR HAUGHEY

~~I AM SORRY THAT YOUR DECISION TO RETIRE WILL NOT ALLOW US TO HAVE THE FURTHER MEETINGS WE PLANNED FOR. I GREATLY ENJOYED THE MEETINGS IN LONDON AND DUBLIN LAST YEAR, WHICH I BELIEVE LED TO A CLOSE AND USEFUL UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER'S VIEWS AND PERSPECTIVES ON ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS AND ON COMMUNITY ISSUES. AS YOU SAID AT OUR JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE ON 4 DECEMBER, NO TWO COUNTRIES IN EUROPE HAVE MORE INTERESTS IN COMMON TODAY. I HOPE TO CONTINUE EXCHANGES WITH YOUR SUCCESSOR TO HELP BUILD UP A RELATIONSHIP OF DEEPENING TRUST AND CONFIDENCE.~~

I HAVE ALSO VALUED YOUR CONSISTENT SUPPORT FOR TALKS ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND OF COURSE FOR THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT. WE SHARE AN ABHORRENCE OF VIOLENCE, A DETERMINATION TO DEFEAT IT, AND A BELIEF THAT POLITICAL CHANGE CAN COME ONLY THROUGH CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES.

AS CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE AT CLOSE QUARTERS YOUR LEADERSHIP OF YOUR COUNTRY DURING THE IRISH PRESIDENCY OF THE COMMUNITY IN 1990. YOUR PRESIDENCY PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN FORMULATING THE COMMUNITY'S RESPONSE TO THE COLLAPSE OF COMMUNIST RULE IN EASTERN EUROPE AND IN CONVENING THE IGCS WHICH AFTER AGREEMENT AT MAASTRICHT WILL SHAPE EUROPE OVER THE NEXT DECADE AND BEYOND. THESE ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE LEFT THEIR IMPRINT ON EUROPE, AND I CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE PERSONAL PART WHICH YOU SO ABLY PLAYED IN BRINGING THEM ABOUT. THIS, LIKE YOUR STAMP ON THE HISTORY OF IRELAND, WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR YEARS TO COME.

I SHALL MISS WORKING WITH YOU AND SEND YOU MY BEST WISHES ~~FOR THE FUTURE.~~

HURD

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SUBJECT

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