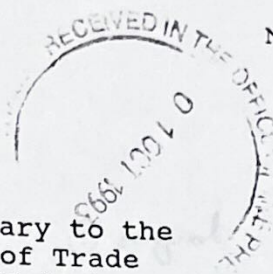




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1 October 1993

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your letter of 13 September.

I agree with how you propose to handle Dr O'Connell's letter of 1 September. In replying - and I think there is something to be said for putting a reply in writing - you should make clear to Dr O'Connell that the Government remains committed to its long-standing policy that it will not talk or negotiate with those who use or support violence, nor will it authorise intermediaries to conduct such talks or negotiations on its behalf. Dr O'Connell should therefore feel under no responsibility to act as an intermediary himself. As you suggest, without encouraging one, Dr O'Connell should be told that any further approach should be made through our Ambassador in Dublin.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Stephens

JONATHAN STEPHENS