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The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine MP  
President of the Board of Trade

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① original

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13 September 1993

Dear Jonathan,

I telephoned you on 10 September concerning a further letter which the President had received from Dr John O'Connell (copy attached). This followed the President's letter to your Secretary of State of 15 June and his reply of 14 July.

I explained that I had not put Dr O'Connell's latest letter to the President, partly because he has been receiving very few items of correspondence during his recuperation but also because I felt quite clear that he would not wish, particularly in view of your Secretary of State's previous letter, to become directly involved. My own view is that I should telephone, or if necessary write to, Dr O'Connell to say that, in the circumstances, the President has not been able to consider his letter but that I am clear from what he had said previously that he would want Dr O'Connell to make any approaches through the established channels. In this case I would have thought that our Ambassador in Dublin might be an appropriate channel. If asked, I would say that this was the view I had reached as the President's Principal Private Secretary rather than that it originated from the President or any other source.

I should be grateful for your early advice.

Yours,

P J SMITH  
Principal Private Secretary

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