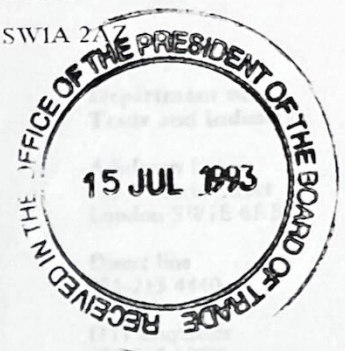


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SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR  
NORTHERN IRELAND



Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP  
President of the Board of Trade  
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LONDON SW1E 6RB

14 July 93

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Our Ref: MR/40270

*Suan Michael.*

Thank you for your letter of 15 June. I was most grateful for sight of the note recording your telephone conversation with Dr O'Connell following our earlier word about the call you had received from him.

Since then, apparently on learning of your illness, Dr O'Connell has spoken in similar terms to our Ambassador in Dublin who reported the conversation to my Permanent Secretary, John Chilcot. They agreed to make clear to Dr O'Connell that there had been no talks or negotiations between the Provisional IRA and NIO officials (a notion O'Connell mentioned to the Ambassador). As you yourself told him, HMG's position on talks with the Provisional IRA is very clear but it is a cardinal aim of PIRA to get into direct dialogue with us. Dr O'Connell will be told that he should feel under no responsibility to act as an intermediary himself.

I imagine that this will suffice, but should Dr O'Connell speak to you again I would suggest you deploy the same arguments.

*James  
Paddy*

SECRET and PERSONAL