



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

- 1 DEC 1993

1. ~~Rob~~ *Pam* . *cc. VW/LR*
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Rt. Hon. Sir Patrick Mayhew MP,
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland,
Northern Ireland Office,

30.11.93

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to express my concern over the possibility of a Northern Ireland Select Committee being established.

As I am sure you are aware, such a Committee would appear to shift the balance in favour of one party to the inter-party talks. If a motion were to go down in the name of the Leader of the House recommending the appointment of such a Committee, or if the Conservative majority on the Procedure Committee recommended its establishment, it would be interpreted as a Government decision which favoured the interests of one particular party. This might prejudice the goodwill of other parties at strand one of the talks process, and hinder the prospects of a just and lasting settlement.

I trust, therefore, that you will use what influence you have to impress upon your Conservative colleagues on the Committee the delicacy of the present situation, and the importance of taking no action which might imperil the progress to peace.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin McNamara

Kevin McNamara MP
Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

*fax to M. MacLean
EJ*

270-2015

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MS