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THE PRIME MINISTER

4 June 1991

Dear Dr. Alderdice,

Thank you for your letter of 15 May about the political talks in Northern Ireland.

Peter Brooke and I fully share your wish to make progress with the talks. I should also like to add my own tribute to the constructive attitude - and patience - displayed throughout the past weeks by your party's delegation. Although it has taken longer than all of us wanted to resolve the procedural issues concerning strands two and three of the talks, progress has now been made and, in particular, agreement has been reached on the venues for the plenary meetings in strand two. I sincerely hope that progress will be made on the substantive issues. There is so much at stake for the people of Northern Ireland - as you know better than I.

*Yours Sincerely,
John Major*

Dr. John Alderdice