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SECRETARY OF STATE
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Mrs Monica McWilliams
NI Women's Coalition
c/o Block B
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Jane
Bronagh

27 February 1998

Dear Monica,

When we met a few weeks ago, we talked, among other things, about facilitating wider community involvement in the political development process and using the premises at the Interpoint Building during non-Forum times for this purpose.

As you know, I am very receptive to the idea. It is very much in keeping with my own developing concern to see increased community involvement at a practical level during the current process, to encourage meaningful engagement and debate on the range of issues which the process generates, and to enhance understanding. It will obviously be important that any such activity is complementary to rather than conflicts with the main Talks at Castle Buildings and that, separately in relation to the Northern Ireland Forum, any increased use of the building does not cut across its work and day-to-day business. But subject to that, I am keen to take the idea forward and I have just agreed to a specific request from the Northern Ireland Women's Forum for use of the Interpoint premises.

I am willing to consider similar requests on their merits and I am writing to other party leaders to let them know this and what lies behind it.



Meanwhile, I should be interested to hear more about your People's Project and about your own ideas on how the facilities at the Interpoint Building might be used.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Marjorie Mowlam', written in a cursive style.

MARJORIE MOWLAM