



10 DOWNING STREET
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THE PRIME MINISTER

3 March 1992

Dear Jim,

Thank you for your letter of 3 March.

I am most grateful to you and John Hume, Ian Paisley and John Alderdice for responding so constructively to the request I made when we met on 11 February that you should re-examine the obstacles in the way of an early start to fresh talks.

Peter Brooke has already confirmed the Government's welcome for your joint statement of last Friday. For my part I am happy formally to provide the reassurance you have sought that the basis of the talks will remain as set out by Peter Brooke in his statement to the House on 26 March 1991.

I am delighted that the way will be clear for the fresh talks to start very soon and hope that this will provide a firm foundation for rapid and substantial progress in the interests of all the people of Northern Ireland.

*Yours faithfully,
A. Molyneaux*

The Rt. Hon. James H. Molyneaux, J.P., M.P.