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THE PRIME MINISTER

9 November 1993

*Dear Paddy,*

Thank you for your letter of 3 November, and for your impressions of Belfast.

Like you, I hope that revision at the latest appalling spate of sectarian killings will give impetus to political progress and efforts to bring violence to an end. As you recognise, I am intervening personally with the leaders of the four constitutional parties in Northern Ireland to try urgently to achieve progress in the talks process. I reached a large measure of agreement with the Irish Prime Minister during our meeting in Brussels on 29 October, as reported in our Joint Statement. That has already been followed up by Patrick Mayhew, at the session of the Inter-Governmental Conference in Belfast on 3 November. As I have indicated in the House, he and I are determined to sustain the momentum of efforts to achieve an agreed outcome in all areas of the three-strand talks.

I am glad to hear that we have your support in this.

*Yours sincerely,  
John*

The Right Honourable Paddy Ashdown MP