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I enclose a copy of a speech which I plan to deliver at Queen's University tomorrow morning at 1100. Although embargoed until then, I wanted to ensure you had early sight of it.

My aims in the speech are to reaffirm the continuing commitment of the Government to securing a firm peace in Northern Ireland, to demonstrate what has been achieved over the past year since the IRA and Loyalist ceasefires, and to show how much more a true peace can bring. The speech also seeks to address fears held by many in the community. First, the fear that too high a price might be paid for peace. It will not. The Government has not and will not sacrifice its principles. Next, a contrary fear, that the Government will let the chance of lasting peace slip through its fingers. Again it will not. The Government is fully committed to building on the peace we have enjoyed over the past year, and we are prepared to take a number of steps dependant on the continuance and development of peace.