



Northern Ireland Office 20 JAN 1994
Stormont Castle
Belfast BT4 3ST

The Rt Hon Tony Newton OBE MP
Lord President of the Council
Lord President's Office
68 Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AT

Miss Hamisa

18 January 1994

*WJ
Thompson*

Dear Tony
James Couchman has drawn first place in the ballot for Private Members' Motions on Friday 21 January 1994. He has tabled the following motion, after consultation with myself and the Whips' Office.

"That this House welcomes and supports the insistent demand of the people of all traditions in Northern Ireland for peace, properly attained, and asserts its abhorrence and rejection, of all violence, from whatever quarter, used in the place of democratic persuasion".

The debate will take place the day after the Northern Ireland Office is TOPs for oral questions and the Northern Ireland Committee considers Health and Social Services in Northern Ireland. This suggests that most of the Northern Ireland political members are likely to be in attendance. In view of the high profile being afforded to Northern Ireland issues at present we expect the debate to generate a considerable amount of interest. It is likely to focus on the Joint Declaration, the prospects for peace and for political development in Northern Ireland. Also, the history of Government contacts with the IRA is likely to be raised, given the publication by the IRA yesterday of their version of events.