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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

21 February 1994

127/77/94

Dear John,

NORTHERN IRELAND BROADCASTING RESTRICTIONS

The Prime Minister has considered the Foreign Secretary's minute of 11 February, together with the minutes of 16 February from the Northern Ireland Secretary and 17 February from the National Heritage Secretary.

The Prime Minister sees the force of the Foreign Secretary's argument. He agrees, as you know, that Ministers should review the Government's policy on broadcasting restrictions at a suitable time. However, the Prime Minister shares the view that it would be seen as an undue concession to the Provisionals if the Government were to lift the restrictions now. He, therefore, considers that the policy should stay in place for the time being.

I am sending copies of this letter to Jonathan Stephens (Northern Ireland Office), Alan Davey (Department of National Heritage) and Melanie Leech (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,
Roderic

RODERIC LYNE

John Sawers Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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