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cc PS / SFS (L+S)
PS / M Ancron (L+S)
PS / PUS (L+S)
PS / Sir D Fall
Mr Thomas
Mr Hill
THE PRIME MINISTER
Mr Masch



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

HEAD OF THE N.I.
13892
17 OCT 1996
CIVIL SERVICE
UNDER SEC 380/10
18 OCT 1996
CENT SEC
1 October 1996

154/92/96

14807

See info
15/10
17-20/10
KAM,

Mr W. Harris
1. as the Captain
to his place
J

Thank you for your letter of 3 September about a number of constitutional points relating to the Coronation Oath.

The Coronation Oath is indeed regarded as a solemn undertaking by the Sovereign which is binding throughout Her reign. Ministers would not advise Her Majesty to sign into law any provision which contradicted Her Oath.

The Coronation Oath and the Accession Declaration Act are important features of our constitution and I would wish them to remain so. But as you know, the form of the Oath has changed previously in our history, and I could not bind a future Parliament.

Yours Truly,
John

The Reverend Dr. Ian R.K. Paisley, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Please reply to.
256 Ravenhill Road
Belfast BT6 8GJ

3rd September 1996

Rt Hon John Major MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
Westminster
London SW1

Dear Prime Minister

In view of the widespread alarm at the reports of an attempt to seriously undermine the Williamite Revolution Settlement I would like to put to you the following questions:

1. Would you confirm that the Coronation Oath, sworn in 1953 by Her Majesty the Queen, is still fully in force?
2. Would you confirm that Her Majesty the Queen cannot in law break her Oath by signing any legislation that is contrary to the said Oath?
3. Would you confirm that the Coronation Oath and the Accession Act are fundamental to the Constitution of this United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland?

The people of this United Kingdom are surely entitled to know the Government's view on this most important constitutional matter.

Yours sincerely

Dr Ian RK Paisley MP MEP

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