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PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIALMESSAGEFROM MR. GEORGE THOMSON TO DR. P. J. HILLERY

I much enjoyed our useful exchange of views last month. I was therefore particularly interested and encouraged to read reports of Mr. Lynch's speech in the Fianna Fail conference at the weekend. You will appreciate that we cannot go along with everything he said: we cannot, for example, agree that partition depends on the support of bigots alone, as Mr. Lynch himself recognised in his acceptance of the fact that two-thirds of the people in Northern Ireland want to be associated with the United Kingdom. But there is much with which we do agree, and we should like you to know that we recognise and value the courage and realism of this speech.

20 January, 1970.

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