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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

28 June 1993

Dear Sir Patrick

COMMENTS ON THE GRENADE ATTACK IN BELFAST - SATURDAY NIGHT

I have just had the amazing experience of listening to the tape of your remarks when being asked about the grenade attack in Belfast last Saturday night, when 30 people were injured, some of them very severely.

Your remark, "nobody's dead, at the end of the Opera everybody's dead", was quite out of order. It was a flippant, unfeeling remark which will have angered all the people of Northern Ireland.

I trust that you will take the earliest opportunity to make a full apology for the anguish and grievance which your attempt at witticism will have caused to all concerned.

I note that the full extent of your remarks on Saturday was not given coverage on this island, I trust no pressure was brought to bear on the BBC by any members of your office to prevent them being heard. It is astonishing that people in Northern Ireland had to wait until Monday morning to hear them.

Yours sincerely

Kevin McNamara MP  
Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary

Rt Hon Sir Patrick Mayhew QC MP  
Secretary of State  
Northern Ireland Office  
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