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Oifig an Taoisigh
Office of the Taoiseach

5 August, 1994.

The Rt. Hon. Mr. John Major, MP,
Prime Minister.

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter. Despite the negative impression created by Letterkenny, I remain guardedly optimistic that peace may yet come substantially in the form which we all want. I have made it clear to all concerned that, if there is nothing further when the holiday period is over, I will be forced to draw certain conclusions.

I agree with the importance of pressing ahead politically now with the Joint Framework Document, and further meetings are planned (or have already taken place) this month and at the very beginning of next month. We are still at a fairly preliminary stage of discussing the corresponding changes which you are willing to make.

I think we should avoid posing any remaining difference with regard to our position in over-simple terms. We have indicated that we are willing to make major substantive changes. But after considering the options carefully, with an open mind and after careful consultation, I have an increasingly settled view of the point beyond which it would not be prudent or responsible for me to go. Given the deepseated differences on constitutional matters, to give

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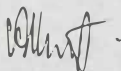
game, set and match to one community over another would have a profoundly destabilising effect. These considerations do not alter the fact that we are willing to go a very considerable

distance to meet Unionist concerns, and indeed I am convinced that their fundamental needs would be met by the formulations that I have already offered. The wider context of the overall settlement remains crucially important.

I hope that you too will enjoy the August break, and I look forward to renewing contact with you in the autumn, if not before.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,


Taoiseach.

RECORDS TO NERMA.