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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

19 November 1981

Dear Mr. Carson,

Thank you so much for your letter of 16 November. I was enormously encouraged to receive it. I shall certainly bear your kind offer in mind.

It seems that, whatever one does, will involve criticism from some quarters. In a strange way, that gives us total freedom to do what we believe to be right - in the best interests of the people of Northern Ireland. We are loyal to them - I hope we shall have their loyalty or cooperation in upholding the rule of law.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

The Hon. Edward Carson