

London Irish Centre
50-52 Camden Square
London NW1 9XB

20 December 1993

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

Dear Prime Minister,

We wish to congratulate you and the Taoiseach on the Joint Declaration issued on 15 December 1993.

The Irish community in Britain is uniquely aware of the division and suffering which have been the terrible legacy of the conflict in Northern Ireland over so many years. This suffering has also affected our British friends and neighbours amongst whom we live and work. In a special way it has also impacted on our children born in this country.

We can assure you that across the Irish community there is a profound and sincere sense that this Declaration, which respects equally the deeply held beliefs of both traditions in Northern Ireland, represents a unique opportunity for peace which must not be allowed to slip by.

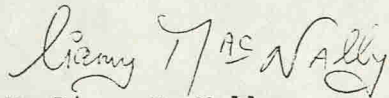
We wish you both to know that you carry in this endeavour the support and good wishes of the Irish community in Britain. We are prepared to give you any practical support we can in furthering the aim of this Declaration, which is the achievement of lasting peace. We appeal to all those on both sides to show now the courage and imagination that will be needed to turn the page of history and to put a shared past of suffering behind them.

We have written today in similar terms to the Taoiseach.

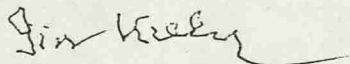
Yours sincerely,



Mrs Mary Allen,
Chairperson Council Irish County Associations



Mr Liam MacNally,
Chairperson, Federation of Irish Societies



Fr Jim Kiely,
Director, Irish Chaplaincy in Britain