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THE ARCHBISHOP OF ARMAGH
The Most Reverend Dr. R. H. A. Eames

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1 June 1987

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Mr John Hume MP, MEP.
6 Westend Park
Londonderry

Dear John,

I write to you on a completely personal and confidential basis on a matter of some importance.

Once the General Election is over I believe from my contacts that there will be a chance of a meeting between the leaders of the four main political parties in Northern Ireland. I have good grounds for such an opinion and I am encouraged by recent conversations to believe that such an opportunity exists. All this will depend on the results of 11 June but I have to look beyond this.

May I ask two questions at this stage.

1. Would you be prepared to meet the other leaders in my presence for an open-ended and informal discussion?
2. Are there any pre-conditions you would have to place on such a meeting?

I would stress that your response to these questions is of vital importance to me as my role is purely that of a Church leader attempting to bring the political leaders together and then leaving them to go on from there. I believe that August or September will be the most likely period for such a meeting, but time will tell.

Naturally I must ask that this letter is kept entirely confidential.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

All good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

+ Most Rev. Armagh.

ARCHBISHOP OF ARMAGH

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