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ROINN AN TAOISIGH
DEPARTMENT OF THE TAOISEACH

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
DUBLIN 2

August, 1976.

I have heard with the greatest regret but nevertheless with understanding of your decision to withdraw from active political life. You have certainly earned a rest from the arena.

May I take this opportunity of again saying how much I valued the close and forthright working relationship we developed in the period since 1973? We differed in our aspiration for the ultimate political future of Northern Ireland but we were of one mind in our respect for the democratic process, in our concern for the lives and safety of all our citizens, North and South and in our determination that those who seek to attain political objectives by violent means must be confronted and defeated. These shared convictions provided a firm base for our co-operation. For me, personally, however, this base was cemented by the characteristically Ulster qualities of resolution, integrity and directness which you brought in such full measure to all our dealings.

The Executive which you headed with courage and dedication clearly demonstrated during its all too brief life in 1974, the feasibility and the potential for good of a broadly based administration enjoying the support of both sections of the community in Northern Ireland. I remain convinced that in this path of partnership lies the only way to a restoration of peace and good government in the North.



ROINN AN TAOISIGH
DEPARTMENT OF THE TAOISEACH

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
DUBLIN 2

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For the present, I should like to wish you well in your new sphere of activity and to express the hope that we may see each other again in the not too distant future. Hitherto, our positions created difficulties for personal meetings but now that you are laying down the burden of party leadership, I hope you will feel free to call on me if you are in Dublin.

A.B.D. Faulkner, Esq.,
Highlands,
Farranfad,
Downpatrick,
Co. Down.