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6 August 1979
(Delivered in London
on 7 August)

Dear Mr Atkins,

Thank you for the time and consideration you extended to me during my recent trip to London. Now, pursuant to our discussions, I officially extend to you my invitation to visit New York in the very near future, and meet with Mr Michael O'Kennedy, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ireland.

New York, the home of the United Nations and the site of innumerable international conferences, is superbly suited to host this meeting and, as Governor, I will make certain of arrangements to ensure an atmosphere of comfort, security and privacy. I will consult with you by phone concerning these plans and any suggestions you might care to make.

Questions of agenda and issues for discussion will be determined, of course, by yourself and Mr O'Kennedy. However, the very fact of your meeting will be a long awaited sign of encouragement to those who have sought an equitable solution that respects the rights of all the people of Northern Ireland.

I realize you are currently on vacation, and your acceptance of this invitation depends on the approval of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, but the exigencies of preparing for such a meeting require that I ask you to respond at your earliest possible convenience.

I have instructed Mr Peter Quinn, one of my special assistants with a background in this area, to work with your office and with Mr O'Kennedy's in order to arrive at arrangements suitable to all concerned.

I look forward to returning your hospitality.

Sincerely,
Hugh L Carey