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Oifig an Taoisigh
Office of the Taoiseach

SECRET

15 June, 1988.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP. FRS.,
Prime Minister.

Dear Margaret,

I have been giving a lot of thought to your letter of 27th April, my subsequent discussion with Tom King and the message conveyed to me on 23rd May through Ambassador Fenn.

While I have been deeply perturbed by some of the things you have written and said and reject many of them, I feel, nevertheless that it would not serve the best interest of the people of these islands to start up a counterproductive correspondence between us. I would hope, therefore, that we could set aside enough time at the Hanover Council at the end of the month to talk substantively about the situation. If you find this suggestion acceptable, the arrangements for the meeting can be made in the normal way.

I feel, however, that even at this stage I should make one simple statement of my beliefs. I am by nature and conviction totally and utterly opposed to all violence and regard the taking of human life as abhorrent in any circumstances. All my political attitudes and actions are based on that belief.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Haughey

Taoiseach.