

LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE ON CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES,  
9 MARCH 1998

JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: NOTE BY HMG

The British Government has repeatedly endorsed the view of the International Body that building confidence is a critical part of the political process. Progress made in the Talks needs to be underpinned by greater confidence in the community, and the Government will play its full part. Building confidence in the justice system is an important component in that.

In this context the Government welcomes the opportunity to place two papers before the Liaison sub-committee for future discussion. The first addresses the concept of restorative justice and how it can shift the focus towards restoring relationships between offenders, victims and the community. The second paper deals with broader issues surrounding the community's response to criminal behaviour. It is the Government's intention to make this latter paper more widely available to groups and organisations which may have an interest in the issues raised.