

## SPEAKING NOTE

Legislative procedures

- Before turning to other matters I wanted to say a brief word about legislative procedures.
- I have no objection in principle to a Select Committee on Northern Ireland affairs and I have it in mind to arrange for the Procedure Committee to re-examine the idea. I am not ready to make any announcements but I am happy to start the wheels turning.
- I am happy that we should do more to legislate for Northern Ireland by Bill. I do not envisage a dramatic shift away from Orders in Council but we will certainly look out for new opportunities to apply Bills for England and Wales to Northern Ireland. We will look at individual pieces of legislation on a case by case basis; this will be an incremental process. Again, I do not envisage any announcement at this stage; the change will become apparent as it is implemented.
- I know that Sir Patrick Mayhew would like to talk to you in more detail. I hope you will keep in contact with him.

Joint Declaration

- Wanted to seek your advice and give you some reassurance about what has been going on with Hume/Adams.
- Need to do so on Privy Council terms. Also wanted to see you as leader of the UUP and one of Westminster's wisest and most experienced Parliamentarians.



- Taoiseach has told me that he hopes to be in a position to make a proposition he believes can secure an end to Provisional violence.
- This fits with assessment of my intelligence advisers that Provisionals want to end violence but must have a sufficient justifying pretext. [Show intelligence assessment - not for Mr Molyneaux's retention.]

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- Want to assure you that at no point has Government been involved in direct or indirect talks or negotiations with the Provisionals about this. But you will understand duty to take seriously anything emanating from the Irish Government with real chance of ending the violence, and that we make our own assessment of that.
- Proposal involves Joint Declaration by Taoiseach and me on the basis that it would lead to ending of PIRA violence. I believe that this text [show draft Joint Declaration - not for retention] may be something we could both honourably and expediently say if the prize of peace would result, but only on condition that the express reference to Northern Ireland's statutory guarantee remains.
- Nothing more to Initiative. There are no side deals or private understandings. We are not asked to make a commitment to withdraw, nor to join ranks of persuaders, nor to talk to Provisionals themselves. Sinn Fein could take part in proposed Convention. But if violence does end we would obviously look at the range of our responses to it (as you and Martin Smyth said).
- Don't know at this stage whether a text on these lines will come to fruition. If it were to go further would welcome your judgement and counsel on how it will be received in Northern Ireland.