

UUP TALKS BULLETIN

The Talks today have been largely taken up with the Alliance Party's spurious indictment of ourselves and the DUP for alleged breach of the Mitchell Principles at Drumcree. In our very brief response, the UUP noted our full acceptance of the Mitchell Report and stated that we do not believe the Alliance submission discloses any breach of the Principles or any action by the UUP contrary to them. We reiterated our view that the Alliance's characterisation of events is unworthy of serious consideration and our consistent condemnation of violence from any quarter. The DUP have taken a position consistent with our own.

This morning, a short discussion was held relating to the reasoning behind the British and Irish Governments' conclusions as to the DUP's indictment of the UDP and PUP for breach of the Mitchell Principles as a consequence of the death threats made to Billy Wright and Alex Kerr. We expressed our concern that the threats had not been lifted and that the Governments had applied faulty reasoning and had not treated this matter sufficiently seriously.

This afternoon, bilaterals were held with the DUP and the UKUP, as well as HMG.

16 September 1996