

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



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*Dear Mr Trimble,*

My Minister, Mr Murphy, thought that you might find it helpful if I were to set out for you what has been done in presentational terms, and is planned for the next few days, in order to highlight many of the issues which were discussed at the meeting with the Prime Minister on Wednesday, and subsequently:

- On Wednesday afternoon (15.45 hours) a statement was issued by Tony Worthington responding to the Coopers & Lybrand's report on Education Funding. Although this did not feature in the media yesterday, the News Letter were persuaded to give it some prominence today.
- A statement was issued on Thursday (16.00 hours) from Lord Dubs on the question of local Government powers on property. This features prominently in today's Belfast Telegraph.
- An article in the Prime Minister's name will appear in tomorrow morning's News Letter addressing many of the issues discussed and on which there are concerns in the Unionist community including eg concern for the victims of violence; greater openness about the workings of

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Government in Northern Ireland; the issue of the ban on handguns recognising the fact that circumstances in Northern Ireland are different.

- I understand that the Prime Minister may also give an interview to Ulster Television later today.
- Following the Minister's meeting yesterday with two of the Commissioners-Designate, the opportunity was taken to issue a press release in order to make the point that progress is being made on decommissioning - they are having briefings from security chiefs, etc.
- Following the remarks by an IRA spokesman yesterday on their attitude to the Mitchell Principles, the Minister undertook interviews which were carried on local and national BBC and independent television news programmes and on national radio yesterday evening making clear our concern and our view that Mr Adams would have serious questions to answer. Comments in the same vein by a Government spokesman have also been extensively carried by the media.
- Arrangements are in hand to ensure that the Minister's speech to the British/Irish Association in Cambridge on Saturday night will be available for use by the media on Sunday; the Sunday Life have already agreed to use it.

The Minister also intends to take an opportunity today to brief some political writers on Sunday newspapers.





- A statement has issued today announcing further improvements in the regime for prisoners in Northern Ireland.

The Minister expects that he will be undertaking some interviews on Sunday and on Monday morning setting the scene for the start of business later that day.

Mr Murphy hopes you will agree that this represents a considerable effort on our part to meet the various points that you have raised.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*R P Lemon*

R P LEMON  
Private Secretary to Paul Murphy MP