



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

From: Jeffrey Donaldson, MP.

ULSTER UNIONIST PARTY

10 September, 1997.

Aide Memoire following meeting with Prime Minister

To: Jonathan Powell.

Jonathan,

The following is a brief summary of our understanding of matters discussed at our meeting with the Prime Minister today.

1. CONSENT

Both governments to state that the Principle of Consent will be a guiding principle during the talks. The PM will spell out his views in an article on consent and on the value of the Union and Northern Ireland's position within it. The Ulster Unionist Party suggest that the Prime Minister states that "the principle of consent will apply in all circumstances in respect of determining the future of Northern Ireland".

2. SUFFICIENT CONSENSUS

Both governments to state that the sufficient consensus mechanism will apply to any outcomes in the talks process.

3. DECOMMISSIONING

Irish government to state that they would like to see actual decommissioning take place during the course of the negotiations.

4. CHAIRMANSHIPS

The Ulster Unionist Party requires that Gen. De Chastelain chair both the Strand Two talks and the International Disarmament and Verification Commission. Prime Minister Holkeri could act as an alternate Chairman in Strand Two and one of the other Commissioners as a Deputy Chairman of the International Commission.

5. CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES

(a) Announcement of the acceptance of the Coopers & Lybrand report on Education.

(b) Local Authorities to be empowered to undertake development of their own property/land in pursuit of economic development. NB. UUP supports the outline speech by Lord Dubs in May and believes that such power should remain with Local Government in the event of devolution in Northern Ireland.

(c) Police Reform. HMG will proceed with legislation by means of Bill rather than Order in Council.

(d) Firearms. HMG to drop plans to extend the recent firearms legislation to Northern Ireland.

(e) Anglo-Irish Secretariat at Maryfield - UUP believe that Maryfield should ultimately be closed. Pending the outcome of negotiations there should be greater openness in informing the Northern Ireland public about the matters which are dealt with by the Maryfield secretariat and about recommendations made on Public Appointments by the Irish civil servants at Maryfield.

(f) A Commission to be established to examine ways in which the victims of terrorism can be appropriately commemorated and to consider the welfare of the families of such victims.

(g) A review to be announced of funding for community development with particular reference to access from the Protestant community.

6. It is important that arrangements be made as soon as possible for David Trimble to sit down with the Prime Minister for two hours to discuss possible outcomes from the talks process. This was suggested by the PM at our previous meeting on 28 August.

Further thought will have to be given to the presentation of these matters and further discussion will be needed on resolving the decommissioning issue during the next few days.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey Donaldson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

JEFFREY DONALDSON

X