

**DRAFT**

**WEDNESDAY MEETING WITH SINN FÉIN**

There is a real possibility that the issue of putting an Irish Government position to Sinn Féin as already discussed is made redundant by the British Government position of this morning.

In the event that a satisfactory outcome is reached with the British Government then the position recommended by Tim Dalton, Sean O hUiginn, Paddy Teahon, with which the Attorney General agrees, is the following

- ♦ a revision to the proposed Irish Government position should be developed in advance of a meeting with Sinn Féin
- ♦ that position should be one that is acceptable to the Irish Government on the basis that no document is given to Sinn Féin but they are persuaded to accept a speech making the same statements
- ♦ the speech would be proceeded with only in the event of a successful resolution to the British Government problem and a statement from Sinn Féin that the speech would make the difference to the reinstatement of the IRA ceasefire.

On balance we do not believe the shorter three paragraph statement could meet the concerns expressed by Sinn Féin given that a more extensive non paper has already been discussed with them.