



**Brief for meeting with SDLP  
15 July, 1996**

we look from the point of an eventual acceptable settlement.

response and the only way to avoid a lapse back into purposeless violence

### Points for comments before SDLP meeting

- There is much justified anger in Nationalist areas of Northern Ireland and throughout Ireland at the events of last week and the way in which they were handled.
- The question which cannot credibly be answered with a Yes is - if those involved at Drumcree and elsewhere in acting outside the law had been Nationalists would they have been treated in the same way.
- That said there is no justification for or purpose to be served by a violent response - restraint is a far more effective response.
- That is true irrespective of whether we look at economic reality or whether we look from the point of an eventual acceptable settlement.



- We must reassert the primacy of politics and this involves meaningful dialogue.
- This meeting with the SDLP is the first of a series this week - many will be held by the Tanaiste bilaterally in Belfast in the next few days.
- There will be a meeting at officials level with Sinn Fein who have urged restraint throughout last week in many difficult local situations.
- The British and Irish Governments need to acknowledge differences of view but not withstanding those will move to deal with the situation that now exists.
- [Am encouraged by Sir Patrick Mayhew's statement this afternoon and in particular that an IGC will take place]
- A key feature of the next number of days must be an acceptance on all sides that the talks process be moved on with urgency as the only correct response and the only way to avoid a lapse back into purposeless violence.