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PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MR TRIMBLE: POINTS TO MAKE

Glad to hear of recent progress in the talks. Believe the key to progress is if you and the SDLP can continue to work together to find a way forward.

Note the warm support this has received in the press here. But I know this is not easy - I have seen the mischievous criticism from McCartney and the DUP simply because of sensible agreement on the agenda.

How is the discussion on decommissioning going? How do we get out of it?

We are not going to sideline decommissioning. That is why we will enact the Bill, even though it might look pretty odd to do so while the IRA carries on letting off bombs. Take it I can look to you for support during its passage?

But with Sinn Fein slamming the door on themselves, we do not want decommissioning to be the stumbling block in the way of everyone else carrying on without them. How can we get over this?

We need to move forward by consensus - how have your discussions with the SDLP got on? Have you found a way forward together yet?

From our discussions, we think we pushed the SDLP and the Irish Government just about as far as they will go on decommissioning. They have produced their Bill and have promised to publish it. But there remains a wide gap between their position and the UUP's. Can you see any way of bridging this?

But although Irish and SDLP unlikely to shift on decommissioning, in the wake of Lisburn they do see the case for clearer conditions of entry for Sinn Fein. Believe there is a growing consensus that Sinn Fein cannot declare a ceasefire and walk immediately into the talks. Informally, the Irish Government talked of a delay of a few weeks; the Americans have also talked of a delay.

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Will clearer conditions of entry for Sinn Fein enable you to move on to the three strands, leaving decommissioning to be returned to if ever Sinn Fein join? Believe the only way of selling clearer conditions of entry is if other parties know it will lead into the three strands.

and briefed in relation to their personal security both on and off duty.

We need the SDLP's support in particular - how will Hume react? Although it has little credibility, he remains convinced that a ceasefire could be restored soon. He continues to say we could make it happen by simply repeating reassurances in existing policy. Until he is convinced a ceasefire will not happen, hard to persuade him to support tougher conditions of entry.

Belfast Region

In fact, I think the IRA has no intention of declaring a ceasefire but if we are to get everyone to agree that we carry on without Sinn Fein - as we are determined to do - we have to get Hume on board. How can we do that?

5. Increased patrolling at City Airport, Palace Barracks and Moscow Camp.
6. Military escort (mobile and foot) in Grosvenor Road and Woodbourne Sub-Divisions.
7. RIR patrolling/performing VCPs: Lisburn, Bangor, Strandtown.
8. Security gates closed 2100 - 0600 at: Lisburn, Kennedy Way, Donegal Road, Broadway (wef 8/10/96).
9. Static VCP at Castlereagh and Carryduff RUC Stations.
10. Permanent police presence at Stormont buildings to protect construction workers.

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