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Taoiseach: checklist

- Sorry the call delayed from yesterday. Was in Manchester, looking at the IRA bomb damage. Reminder of their ability and continuing desire to cause destruction.
- Glad to have a word before the summer break.
- Important to show that, whatever our disagreements from time to time, our two governments can go on working closely.

Belfast talks

- Glad that procedural issues out of the way. Should not underestimate importance of this, and evidence of talks' ability to survive Drumcree strains.
- Much regret that more progress not possible on agenda. But clear that parties' will to reach rapid solutions not there, reinforced by exhaustion and absence of Mitchell.
- Decommissioning always going to be difficult. Need to reflect and work on how to find a way through before talks resume. But no magic solutions.
- Aware of difficult position of SDLP. Must encourage them to stay in.
- Useful if you can talk to UUP again.

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- Vital to keep the talks going and get on to the substance. Only alternative is more useless violence.

Apprentice Boys

- Doing everything possible to promote a local accommodation, but signals mixed.
- Not sure Sinn Fein want a solution. Please encourage them to co-operate.
- Cannot solve whole parades issue before 10 August, though hope we can do so before next year. Must concentrate on immediate aim of avoiding confrontation in Derry and Belfast.
- (If necessary) Don't know what view Chief Constable will take if agreement not possible. For him to decide.

Hume/Adams (If raised)

- Now clear, on testing, that Hume's initial account of Adams' position not accurate (not a surprise), and ceasefire not imminent.
- Sinn Fein seem to be looking to engage us in a separate negotiation without any commitment to a new ceasefire themselves. Not a game we can play. But ready to explore any genuine way forward.
- Meanwhile must keep up pressure on IRA simply to declare a ceasefire

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and not encourage them to ask for more concessions.

Special European Council

- Grateful for your efforts to accommodate my problems with early October, and those of others. Hope to be able to say yes to 9 November, though not ideal.

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