

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PUP AND UDP

Press Line

The Prime Minister met representatives of the Progressive Unionist Party and the Ulster Democratic Party today.

This was one of a number of meetings with parties involved in the multi-party negotiations.

Both parties joined the Prime Minister in condemning the recent violence, intimidation and defiance of the rule of law from both sides of the community.

The Prime Minister stressed the importance of the Loyalist ceasefire, which had made possible the PUP and UDP's entry into the negotiations.

The Prime Minister re-affirmed the Government's determination to make rapid progress to substantive issues in the negotiations, and paid tribute to the constructive role of the PUP and UDP.

The PUP and UDP each raised a number of concerns, including prisoner issues, on which they put proposals to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister agreed to consider these further.