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FROM: JOANNA NIXON
DIARY SECRETARY
14 NOVEMBER 1996

DESK IMMEDIATE

cc	PS/Secretary of State (L&B)	- B
	PS/Michael Ancram (L&B)	- B
	PS/Sir John Wheeler (L&B)	- B
	PS/PUS (L&B)	- B
	PS/Sir David Fell	- B
	Mr Thomas	- B
	Mr Steele	- B
	Mr Bell	- B
	Mr Leach	- B
	Mr Shannon	- B
	Mr Stephens	- B
	Mr Watkins	- B
	Mr Beeton	- B
	Mr Maccabe	- B
	Mr Perry	- B
	Ms Bharucha	- B
	Mr White	- B
	Mr Whysall	- B

Mr Hill - B

**PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE LOYALISTS:
WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER 1996**

This minute is to confirm that the Prime Minister will meet the Loyalist parties at 2.45 pm on Wednesday 20 November. This meeting is expected to last for one hour. Those attending will be Gary McMichael and John White from the UDP and David Ervine and William 'Plum' Smith from the PUP. It has not yet been decided whether the Secretary of State or Michael Ancram will attend this meeting with the Prime Minister or if any supporting officials will be required.

2. David Ervine has confirmed that the parties wish to reinforce their credibility and feel the meeting will provide helpful symbolism for them. The topics they wish the Prime Minister to cover include the following:

- (i) reaffirmation of the principle of consent;
- (ii) assessment of how HMG sees IRA intentions at present (ceasefire or not);

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- (iii) assessment of the political process and how far HMG sees it moving forward before electioneering;
- (iv) prison issues (this is surprisingly not at the top of the Loyalist agenda).

3. I should therefore be grateful if you would coordinate briefing for this meeting in the form of a draft letter to No 10, copied to both London and Belfast offices, by 5.00 pm tomorrow, 15 November. I believe that Mr White is supplying briefing on prisons issues direct to Private Office.

(Signed)

Joanna Nixon
Diary Secretary (L)
Ext: OAB 6460
14 November 1996

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