

AHERN CHECKLIST

- Good news on weekend marches. Hope it holds despite Paisley and "Spirit of Drumcree" attacks.
- Grateful for your low-key reaction. Best to maintain this.
- Parades issue far from solved.
- But must build on this breathing space in wider peace process.
- Have replied to Sinn Fein in terms you have seen.
- They must make their minds up.
- On decommissioning, some hopeful signs in the talks.
- UUP reasonably co-operative. In touch with your officials about how to reply to Trimble's long letter.
- May also need to find some gesture to help keep him in the talks.
- Will be in touch separately, but thinking about rapid establishment of Independent Commission, and existence of a decommissioning scheme or schemes in early September.
- Aim to show that decommissioning could happen early, whatever the reality. Very important defence for Trimble staying in.