

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



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JH 18/7

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Dear John

MEETINGS WITH THE ALLIANCE PARTY AND NI WOMEN'S COALITION

As we approach the point of decision on decommissioning in the Northern Ireland talks, it is important to consolidate all the support we can. My Secretary of State believes it would be helpful in doing that if the Prime Minister were to offer meetings to Lord Alderdice of the Alliance Party and to the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition.

My Secretary of State, though fully aware of the considerable commitment of time to Northern Ireland issues the Prime Minister is already making, believes that a short meeting with both these groups would pay dividends in encouraging them to maintain a positive line. If an early indication could be given of willingness to hold such meetings that would be most helpful.

Yours
David
CD KYLE