## CONFIDENTIAL

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## CHECKLIST

- Know your concerns about contacts with Sinn Fein and decommissioning. But the positions we have taken are part of our determination to move the process forward rapidly. Essential that you stay with us in doing so;
- on <u>Sinn Fein</u>, wanted to make sure there was no excuse for them about lack of clarification. Aware of danger of being strung along but actually keeping the pressure on them, where it belongs;
- we are as keen to see <u>decommissioning</u> as you. But we can get no more
  out of the other side. The trick now is to work with what we have to keep
  the pressure on Sinn Fein, and make clear that decommissioning cannot be
  ducked you should declare victory;
- if you vote against the proposals, or pull out of the talks, you let everyone else off the hook, and we may lose decommissioning as an issue altogether;
- if the talks collapse, we will continue our efforts through some kind of consultation process, but it may not be governed by sufficient consensus;
- next week's crunch cannot be avoided or put off any longer. Ready to help you if we can, but our room for manoeuvre is extremely limited.

## CONFIDENTIAL

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- please keep your eyes on the real goal of a peace settlement which preserves the Union for the future. Decommissioning is important but a side issue in comparison;
- we have everyone tied into this kind of settlement at present. Vital not to lose this opportunity.