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CHECKLIST

Drumcree

- No decisions yet. Essentially public order matter, and so for Chief Constable.
- But well aware of all political sensitivities. We are in our usual impossible position.
- Frankly, public comments by you and Ray Burke have not helped.
- Whatever the eventual decision, it should not be seen as a test of where our loyalties lie, or get mixed up in wider peace process.
- Understand your domestic position. But please try to calm passions, not inflame them. We will do the same.

Sinn Fein

- Further letter from them, as you may know. Makes impossible demands on us.
- Will respond to genuine clarification requests, but not to pressure to change our policies.
- At the outer limits of what is acceptable without losing the Unionists, public opinion, and the bipartisan approach.

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- Sinn Fein have what they say they needed. They must now deliver, and the sooner the better.
- Will not be impressed if they see a Drumcree march as an excuse for violence or dodging decisions.

Decommissioning

- Glad we could agree on the joint paper.
- Pressure from both sides to clarify/change.
- We do not need to stick to every comma, but we must remain absolutely faithful to Mitchell. In our view this must mean some decommissioning during negotiations.
- You may be reluctant to spell this out publicly, but if you appear to mean something else, we are lost.

Bloody Sunday

- New material being studied with an open mind.
- Will be in touch when we have decided on the right way forward.
- Meanwhile not helpful to stoke up expectations or present the issue as a litmus test.

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