

From: Rt. Hon. John D. Taylor, M.P.

Deputy Leader U.P.



23.7.97.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, M.P.
The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

At our meeting on Monday it was agreed that we should propose some "confidence building" measures to assist the confidence of the majority community in N. Ireland. The Party will submit a more complete list but, as I remain concerned at the levels of fear and distrust within that community I now mention four subjects which I have already discussed with David Trimble. These are ones which I believe could be acted upon quickly at "no cost" to the government and would prove helpful.

(1) Grands Committees

Both the Scottish and Welsh Grands Committees have met since the General Election but there has been a delay by those with authority to arrange a meeting of the N.I. Grands Committee. This requires a decision before the House rises.

(2) N.I. Affairs Select Committee

Due to the failure of the Tory Party to nominate an acceptable Chairman (Temple Morris and Hunter being rejected) this Select Committee has not had its first meeting. The Whips should get together to expedite agreement on the membership of the N.I. Select Committee before the House rises. I myself have withdrawn my name from membership.

See Page 2.

From: Rt. Hon. JOHN D. TAYLOR M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Page 2

23.7.97.

(3) Gun laws

With no requirement - only an expectation - that the IRA disarm during the substantive talks at Stormont it would seem unfair that Terrorists can keep their illegal arms whilst the NIIO proceeds to disarm legal firearms. If Minister Ingram proceeds with new restrictive gun laws for legal arms their will be uproar in Ulster. Politically it would be insensitive to raise this issue at this time and I hope Minister Ingram will delay this subject - luckily there is no proposal in public yet.

(4) UK Delegation to Council of Europe.

The Ulster Unionist Parliamentary Party has requested that Northern Ireland be represented in the new UK Delegation. The Tories removed our membership after the separation of the UUP from the Conservative Party! The Parliamentary Party has nominated myself to be a member of the delegation and both David Trimble and Martin Smyth, our Chief Whip, have made this known to the Government Chief Whip, Nick Brown. I enclose my 'CV' for this appointment.

Sincerely, J. D. Taylor