

## CONFIDENTIAL

## PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH TAOISEACH, 10 OCTOBER 1997

**Lines to take**

Opening of the Talks could not reasonably have gone better. **Co-operation between our two sides** recently has been excellent. Ray Burke developed close working relations with Mo Mowlam and Paul Murphy: look forward to similarly good relations with David Andrews.

**Must go on working closely** to give the Talks the best chance possible. Of course we **have to respect the primacy of the process itself**: must encourage the parties to talk to each other, not try to get us to fight their corner for them – as on both sides they will seek to do.

Had that very much in mind **when I saw Trimble on Wednesday** [give account of meeting].

I have inevitably seen a lot of Trimble in recent months. **Aware of the need to talk more widely**: hope to see Hume very shortly.

Defensive: **Parades**. I appreciate the sensitivities aroused by the proposed extended remit of the Parades Commission. As Mo Mowlam has made clear for your **private** information, we have **no early intention of activating the provision concerned**. She intends to make clear publicly that she will not bring the remit into force for at least 12 months, and will review the position in the Autumn of 1998.

Defensive: **Gestures to Sinn Fein**. We shall no doubt have many Sinn Fein demands for action, particularly through the confidence-building machinery of the Talks. We shall consider them carefully. We recognise that, other things being equal, **we have an interest in sustaining the less extreme elements of the movement**. But **we must also be alive to Unionist sensitivities, which continue to be acute**.

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