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16 September, 1997

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John Holmes

MEETING WITH UUP, 16 SEPTEMBER

1. I believe you were looking for a summary of the main points raised by the UUP at the Secretary of State's meeting with them this evening. I attach a very quick note. You have the draft procedural motion to which it relates (today's 1745 version).
2. Mr Trimble, Mr Maginnis, Mr Donaldson and Mr Empey were the main players. Despite Mr Trimble acknowledging at the start that there had been very significant movement, it was a difficult meeting.
Mr Maginnis professed growing doubts about coming into the process at all. We agreed to be in contact in the morning they refused to be pinned down: they will look at the paper again and offer further comment; we will see what responses we can give. Trimble refused to be committed on any timescale for coming into the process, even with a positive response.
3. I have given brief indications in square brackets of the practicality at first sight of meeting the Unionist points. Their main concerns seem to be on decommissioning ((iv)2(b) third tier), where we can only go a limited way to meeting them - as they surely know; Chairmanships, on which we could omit the paragraph, but problems would obviously remain; and review plenaries, on which we should be able to meet them.
4. The UUP did not bring up their confidence-building measures. They did flag up concerns over the agenda and format. They also spoke about Markethill, and the need for conspicuous security efforts. In is aftermath.

Yours sincerely,
A J Whysall

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PREM 49/117 Letter dated 16 sep 1997