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Ulster Unionist Council

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16 September 1997

Marjario Mowlum MP Northern Ireland Ortice Formont Castle Liast BT4 357

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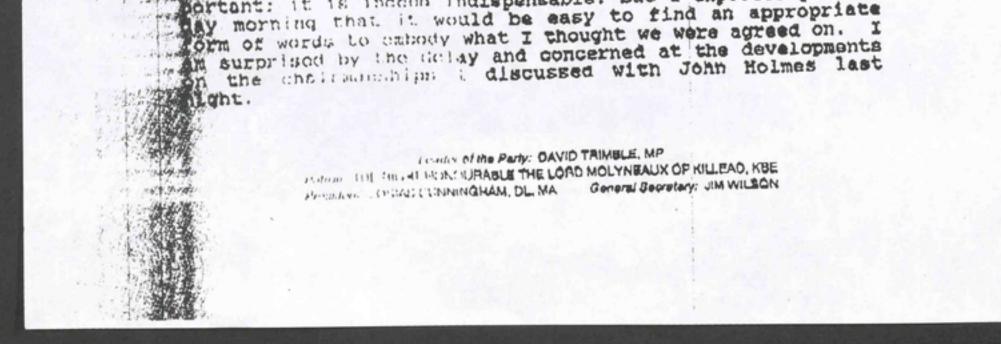
thought it night be helpful to review where we are at the opent.

You will have note my comments yesterday welcoming the covernment's record statements that consent will be the cuilding principle in the negotiations.

by I underline the point I made during meetings with the ime Minister in July and again earlier this month, that I incerstand the above statement to mean that there will be a fourne process of negotiation: that there will be no exercition of the events in June and July. Then we were essented with a joint governmental position, prepared with out any genuino consultation with us, and told that it is not open to negotiation. As I said to you in July, any itempt to repeat that conduct will be fatal to progress in the talks.

You will have noted the comment in my statement yesterday hat we are focusing on the format and the agenda for subtantive talks. Unfortunately our discussions yesterday with the Minister of State, Paul Murphy MP, and Senator litchell, tailed to effect any useful information. Can I inderline that progress on these issues is crucial to us. Inderline that progress on these issues is crucial to us. In participants in the talks as a whole to determine. But the government is aware of our concerns on these matters and would appreciate greater clarity as to the government's Disition with regard to these concerns.

esterday's atatement did not specifically mention decommisloning: not because the resolution of the issue is not imcortant: it is indeed indispensable: but I expected yester-





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The presence at Castle Buildings yesterday of relatives of the victims of terrorism is a reminder of the hurt that the victims of terrorism is a reminder of the hurt that the be caused by the posturing of those responsible for the loss. This is a very sensitive issue and the Northern the loss. This is a very sensitive issue and the Northern the loss. This is a very sensitive issue and the Northern the loss. This is a very sensitive issue and the Northern the loss. This is a very sensitive issue and the Northern the loss. This is a very sensitive issue and the Northern the prime Minister's promise to mark the sacrifices made the prime Minister's promise to mark the sacrifices made in service of the community and help the bersaved and suf-

Turning to the list of confidence building measures given to you on 31 July, I am pleased to note the progress announced aducation funding and local government. I hope these anof education funding and local government. I hope these announcements will be followed up as soon as possible.

A elso welcome the Prime Ninister's comments on Police and Recarms legislation. In respect of the latter I think his comment at our meeting last Wednesday that the simplest bomment at our meeting last Wednesday that the simplest thing to do was simply to say that Northern Ireland is difthing to do was simply to say that Northern Ireland is difthing to do was simply to say that Dunblane legislation will the applied is the best thing to do.

There are two matters on which there appeared to be agreement at out meeting with the Prime Minister last Wednesday, minely greater openness in the operation of the Internumely greater openness and secretariat (pending its overnmental conference and secretariat (pending its overnmental conference and secretariat (pending its development with particular reference to access from, and development with particular reference to access from, and development with protestant community. I hope you can this treatment of, the protestant community. I hope you can

The response by Paul Murphy MP on 2 September to my memo of July mentioned the current position on quangos, fair inployment and parades. May I underline the point that the point of the exercise is to build public confidence, hole point of the exercise is to build public confidence, incle point of the pro-union people that this government particularly among the pro-union people that this government is aware of their concerns and will deal fairly with them. Is aware of their concerns and will deal fairly with them. That confidence does not exist at present, and will not be that do private briefings. We find the absence of contreated by private briefings. We find the absence of contreated by private briefings. We find the resence of contreated by private briefings. We find the absence of contreated by private briefings. We find the absence of contreated by private briefings. We find the absence of contreated by private briefings. We find the absence of contreated by private briefings. We find the absence of contreated by private briefings. We find the absence of contreated by private briefings. We find the absence of contreated by private briefings. We find the absence of contreated by private briefings. We find the absence of con-

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