

(20 November)

HANDLING DECOMMISSIONING: POINTS TO MAKE TO THE UUP

- Feedback on meeting with SDLP. Prospects, including trilateral?
- Confirm SDLP opposed to UUP position on Sinn Fein conditions of entry. [Lesson: no "sufficient consensus" for UUP approach].
- On conditions of entry reassert the case for pitching them at a reasonable level, to maintain Irish Government/SDLP support for the wider talks process if Sinn Fein ultimately fail to meet the challenge. Look ahead to Prime Minister's meeting with Mr Trimble and Mr Maginnis.
- On the handling of decommissioning, seek to establish whether the UUP would be prepared to proceed on something like the basis HMG has suggested [second part of Annex A] and drop their current requirements for a tranche of decommissioning before Sinn Fein joins the three strands and prior commitment to a schedule of decommissioning.
- Alternatively, encourage the UUP to continue to work with the SDLP and Alliance Party to find a way through, calling on us for advice and assistance as necessary.