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SPEAKING NOTES

- Understand your concerns about current pressures on the IRA and Sinn Féin.
- The resignations from Sinn Féin and the IRA clearly created complications for the leadership, which RSF, the Continuity IRA and others will try to exploit.
- We are keeping a close eye on the situation ourselves.
- Nevertheless it seems to us that Adams and Co remain firmly in charge and that the ceasefire is not under immediate threat.
- We have seen no signs yet of any significant drift from PIRA to CIRA or that those who resigned will set up in organised resistance to Adams and Co.
- But agree that we should go on looking for ways to underpin the peace and help Sinn Féin as necessary. Aware that they want more progress on de-militarisation, prisoners and Irish culture.

TALKS

- Arguably the most important thing we can do to help Sinn Féin is to keep on trying to inject **momentum into the talks**.
- All the parties have been reluctant to show their hands, while expecting others to do so. Sinn Féin themselves have a part to play; for example, their refusal to discuss devolved institutions

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within Northern Ireland because it would mean accepting partition is plainly unrealistic given the attitude of the other parties.

- I am happy to urge Trimble to engage with the process and the parties, even if not yet with Sinn Féin directly.
- Understand that Andrews was delighted with his meeting earlier this week.
- How did your meeting with Trimble go?
- Can you give a **commitment on Articles 2 and 3?**
- I will go on pressing the UUP on Strand 2 if you are content to develop the **East/West architecture.**

CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES

- We have, of course, already taken a number of highly significant steps which will help Sinn Féin and the wider Nationalist community:
 - the announcement of our intention to remove the provisions of internment
 - the ending of exclusion orders
 - recategorisation of IRA prisoners in GB to get them out of the SSUs
 - Some 230 prisoners released early, under 1995 legislation

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- 6 prisoners have been repatriated to the Republic of Ireland, and requests by a further 3 have recently been approved
- 14 prisoners have been transferred permanently to Northern Ireland, and 12 have been temporarily transferred: 1 further application is currently being processed
- prisoners transferred to Northern Ireland now subject to local leave arrangements.
- I have met Adams and others in the leadership, and am ready to see Sinn Féin in Downing Street as part of a wider series of meetings with the parties.
- 30-40% reduction in military patrolling in Northern Ireland.
- Incorporation of ECHR.
- Police reform, including a new Independent Complaints Ombudsman.
- The new deal, and review of long-term unemployment.
- So we have done a lot, but will go on looking actively for further measures across the board.
- On prisons, the Home Secretary is looking urgently at the setting of tariffs for the **Balcombe Street Gang**, who have applied for repatriation to the Republic. We are also processing the 1 remaining transfer application to Northern Ireland (Martin).

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- Any plans for early releases in the Republic? If you have please acknowledge our own programme of releases.

BLOODY SUNDAY

- The Government recognises that the events of 30 January 1972 in Londonderry still arouse great pain and sorrow. The Government has indicated a clear desire to address this issue. We deeply regret the loss of life.
- Officials are examining the evidence presented to the previous Secretary of State by some of the relatives of those killed and that presented by the Irish Government. If there is new evidence the appropriate action will be taken.
- No options have been ruled out but the material must be examined thoroughly first.
- Dr Mowlam met the relatives of some of those killed at a lunch on 3 July, she told the families that she would examine the material and make a statement as soon as possible, but that might take several months.
- **[IF PRESSED]** We do plan to inform the Irish Government and the relatives of our decision before we make an announcement.

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