

CONVERSATION WITH MR TRIMBLE, 26 NOVEMBER

Suggested points to make

1. Grateful for your paper setting out informal thoughts on Heads of Agreement.
2. Glad to hear of your positive meeting with Ahern. (Irish accounts also reflect real engagement and readiness to develop contact with the UUP on a realistic and constructive basis.)
3. Believe I can now begin to discern the outlines of an agreement which could command widespread support. [Run through the half dozen key elements of any agreement.] Is this in the right ball park?
4. Meanwhile, we need to register forward movement in the talks, during next week's review plenary.
5. Very much appreciate your readiness not to stall the talks over decommissioning. Agree on the need for continued pressure on that front.
6. Hope you can find some way to engage directly with Sinn Fein in the talks context (in a roundtable format, if not bilaterally). That would remove a bogus propaganda issue.
7. Mitchell is clearly looking for ways to identify the key issues on the way to drawing out an outline agreement, at least on the areas for further discussion. Hope you will support this exercise. Could you show Mitchell the paper you sent me, or a list of "key issues" drawn from it, to ensure he gets a rounded picture?
8. With your help we may be able to bring this exercise round to agreement on a workplan to emerge from the review plenary, which would be a constructive outcome.