

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



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Dear John

NORTHERN IRELAND: NEXT STEPS

Further to yesterday's meeting between the Prime Minister, Dr Mowlam and Paul Murphy, I attach a short checklist of the points which the Prime Minister might cover in his planned conversation with David Trimble this evening.

We have no comments on the draft "Heads of Agreement" attached to your letter of 25 November. However, as David Trimble has suggested, the immediate need may be for a "workplan" which could flow from outline agreement on the key elements of any settlement, so if no other vehicle appears there may be a case for re-incorporating short checklists of the key issues to be resolved under each heading.

Senator Mitchell is likely to table a text providing some indication of the overall shape of an agreement by drawing on the parties' suggested lists of "key issues". We hope this will not expose the fact that the UUP have not contributed to the exercise. We have, with the Irish, suggested the approach (Annex B) which we showed the Prime Minister yesterday. It would be helpful if the UUP could contribute to the exercise, by sending something to Senator Mitchell - within the next 24 hours. In any event, their help will be needed to produce a constructive outcome from the review plenary.

I am sending copies of this letter to John Grant (FCO), Jan Polley (Cabinet Office), Christopher Meyer (Washington) and Veronica Sutherland (Dublin).

Yours
Jan *W K Lindsay*
W K LINDSAY