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SINN FEIN

- Glad to renew discussions after short meeting in Belfast.
- Not a politically risk-free meeting for me, but no doubt it is the right thing to do, as long as you remain committed to exclusively peaceful and democratic means.
- Obviously any return to violence by the IRA would breach that and make your continued participation in the talks impossible. Some alarming stories fly round from time to time but I assume your commitment to the Mitchell principles remains absolute.
- Political negotiation the way forward. Glad to see the talks are beginning to engage in earnest. Aware of your frustration about UUP, but give them time. Beginning to happen. And you are a key part of this.
- Hope the key issues paper can be agreed next week. Would give negotiators something to bite on when you all return after the Christmas break.
- Would personally like to have gone even further and tabled draft Heads of Agreement but was persuaded time was not right for that. Want to drive the process on.
- Attachment to consent principle remains absolute, but that does not mean we are not committed to change, as told you last time.

- Ready to talk about elements of final settlement as we see them. You will not be surprised that this does not include a united Ireland.
- Understand why you must pursue this but important that your objectives, and expectation of your supporters, are also realistic about what can be achieved in these talks.

Confidence-building

- Accept need for this. But constantly told by Unionists I am doing nothing else but building your confidence!
- Have made moves on prisoners, security profile etc and ready to do more [see detailed briefing].