

ANNEX

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH LORD ALDERDICE

Key Points To Make*Propositions on Heads of Agreement*

- The propositions provide a basis for discussion, which the Governments hope could help the talks participants move towards agreement.
- The propositions, while in the name of the two Governments, derive in a very real sense from the views of all parties on the various issues which arise in the talks - expressed both in bilateral meetings and in the round table discussions which have taken place. The possible propositions represent our best guess at what could be a generally acceptable outcome
- Unionist reservations about the nature and role of cross-border bodies is a matter for them and the other talks' participants to agree as part of the overall settlement.
- Sinn Fein's reservations about the Propositions paper is disappointing. The British and Irish Governments will do all that they can to reassure Sinn Fein that Propositions provides a basis for a balanced settlement that will command support across the communities in Northern Ireland.
- Nothing has been set in stone and the talks' parties may table their own proposals alongside.

Unionists not talking to Sinn Feir

- The Government has and will continue to encourage the UUP to engage directly with Sinn Fein. However, to force such a meeting could prove counter productive and the best approach is to let it happen naturally and in its own time.
- There are indications from the all-party round table discussions in Castle Buildings that the UUP's attitude towards Sinn Fein is beginning to thaw and hopefully this will continue.

Insufficient time available for detailed negotiations between now and the May deadline

- The Government shares this concern and will work with the Irish Government and the Independent Chairmen to ensure that greater momentum is injected into the negotiations.
- With regard to Strand One the British Government has circulated a work plan and is preparing papers to facilitate discussion of Strand One institutions and powers to be devolved to a Northern Ireland assembly.
- Inevitably the pace of the negotiations will be dictated by the participants themselves.

Dr Mowlam's meeting with Loyalist Prisoners

- Dr Mowlam's visit to the prisoners in the Maze was designed to reinforce the Talks process by helping the prisoners to understand the broad parameters of any agreement likely to emerge from the Talks. She did not negotiate with the prisoners.

- 21 Jan 21 17:01
- TOP SECRET
CYPB
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- Dr Mowlam and I believed that the Government should take all reasonable steps to keep the parties in the process particularly against the background of the upsurge in violence over the Christmas period.
 - We understand and have acknowledged that Dr Mowlam's visit has upset those who have been the victims of violence. However, it is precisely for the reason of giving the Talks a chance to succeed, and thus end the violence that Dr Mowlam, met the prisoners.
 - The Government has taken all necessary steps to improve security at the prison and awaits the reports of the enquiries being carried out by Narey and Ramsbottom.
- signs 2 0/2011
- Handwritten notes:*
This evening, I think I should not
do not add to what I have said
have said that I have a question
a little more to say to it. I
least sentence of the that has been to
get. How far I can say for
private contact to include

What is the situation?

Dr. Mawhood and I believe that the Government should take all reasonable steps to keep the peace in the prison particularly against the background of the upsurge in violence over the Christmas period.

We understand and have acknowledged that Dr. Mawhood's visit has upset those who have been the victims of violence. However, it is precisely for the reason of giving the staff a chance to succeed, and thus end the violence that Dr. Mawhood was the prisoner.

The Government has taken all necessary steps to improve security at the prison and awaits the reports of the enquiries being carried out by Mary and Rampton.