

ANNEX

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH ROBERT McCARTNEY MP

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.
- The propositions are consistent with the achievement of Unionist objectives.
- Nothing has been set in stone and the talks' parties may table their own proposals alongside.
- Detailed negotiations will now move forward and it will up to the parties to agree a settlement which must command support throughout both communities.

Cross Border Bodies

- The role and nature of cross-border bodies is a matter for the Talks' participants to agree as part of the overall settlement and will now be part of the focus of detailed negotiations. If Mr McCartney wishes to influence this element, or any element of the eventual settlement, then he and his party should return to the Talks.

Prisons

- Dr Mowlam's visit to the prisoner 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.
- 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.

Labour Party Policy

- Bob McCartney has recently been citing old party documents and speeches claiming that we are committed to Irish Unity and cannot be trusted.
- Our manifesto - which is the only authentic statement of policy - clearly states that we are committed to "reconciliation between the two traditions and a political settlement which can command the support of both".
- The manifesto also made clear that the "future of Northern Ireland must be determined by the consent of the people as set out in the Downing Street Declaration."