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PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH SINN FEIN: POINTS TO MAKE

Sectarian murders

1. Very concerned at deaths of 4 Catholics and a loyalist, this morning, since murder of Billy Wright. Personal condolences to Adams on the murder of Terry Enright, his relative. Doing all we can to maintain security - even if it means we cannot proceed with de-escalating security as fast as otherwise.
2. Understand fear in Catholic community. Believe the attacks are designed to provoke the IRA back to war - nothing will be achieved that way.

Tabling of propositions

3. Convinced the only way to break the cycle is to demonstrate political progress. Very worried about vacuum over Christmas, so agreed with Irish Government on the imperative of showing the Talks would get down to substance in January. In the end, as you've said, it's inevitable that the two Governments have to provide a strong lead.
4. Had to work closely with Trimble. UUP as essential to the process as nationalists. "Propositions" has brought them to the table to engage in serious negotiations on the substance, which just wasn't happening before. Hoped that Irish Government had been working as closely with nationalists.
5. Not working for a deal which just the UUP, or even the UUP and SDLP, are happy with. That may be the UUP's game - it's not mine. Want a deal which is genuinely inclusive - and marks a break with the past and a genuinely new start in all the relationships. No internal settlement and no good to tinker at the edges. Got to be a comprehensive and radical new deal.

Propositions -v- Frameworks

6. Frameworks not off the table - both Governments have said (letter to McGuinness of 14 January) they remain committed to position set out in Frameworks.

7. "Propositions" is a much more general summary than Frameworks - there's nothing in it which prevents you using it as a basis for arguing strongly for the detail in Frameworks. That should be your job now.

8. Don't accept that North/South dimension has been watered down.

11. Read propositions, not the Daily Telegraph leak:

- Intergovernmental Council and North/South Council will operate independently. Trimble has said he regards them as "autonomous";

- "Propositions" says North/South Council will take decisions, and it brings together the executive authorities;

- There will be implementation bodies and mechanisms - so that means North/South Council can decide to do something, by agreement, and get it done;

- know nationalists will want issues for decision in North/South Council settled in advance and not subject to future veto of Assembly. Believe SDLP and Irish Government will rightly insist on this.

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Sinn Fein's attitude

9. Know you've got difficulties - I want to keep you in. Believe your difficulties relate as much to the process and the presentation of "propositions" as the substance. Believe you are absolutely right to say you would stick with the Talks process nonetheless.
10. Is there more we can do to show we are determined to take a balanced approach? Want to be seen to be treating all parties equally. Have told Trimble now is the time for UUP to engage with you across the table in the negotiations - but it won't encourage him if he thinks you will only talk about a united Ireland.
11. Recognise your right to put forward your ideal solution. But everyone has to accept compromise. Determined negotiations will get real - but if you insist on talking only about an unreal solution, you will have less influence as everyone else believes a real deal can be done.

Other issues

12. "Propositions" commits us to effective and practical measures for an acceptable peacefully society - recognise importance of equality issues, prisoners and policing.
13. Committed to equality agenda - rights, employment opportunities, fair treatment of Irish language etc. Recognise centrality of prisoners issues - Secretary of State has said we are ready to work up account of effect of agreed settlement on prisoner releases - despite severe domestic political difficulties, we are prepared to grasp this nettle.