

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



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John Holmes
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
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Dear John

JOHN BRUTON MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER-19 FEBRUARY

You asked for briefing for this meeting which will be attended by Paul Murphy.

Mr Bruton continues to keep a close interest in Northern Ireland. He has had two meetings with Dr Mowlam over the last month, the most recent during her visit to Dublin on 5 and 6 Feb. Mr Bruton has expressed concern that the institutions that might emerge from the talks, including the new East/West Intergovernmental Council, could be over-elaborate and unwieldy. He will argue that they should be kept as simple as possible and workable.

Points To Make

We suggest that the Prime Minister gives Mr Bruton an update on the talks. I attach some points to make. These are based on the material provided for Prime Minister's questions earlier today. I also attach a few points on the Intergovernmental Council if this is raised by Mr Bruton.

I am copying this letter and attachments to Dominic Chilcott.

David G

for W K LINDSAY