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## ANNEX

## PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE DUP: 29 JANUARY 1998

Points To Make*Talks Participants in breach of the Mitchell Principles*

- On Monday (26 January) the two Governments moved decisively to remove the UDP because of UFF involvement in recent sectarian murders.
- The Governments will consider any firm evidence which implicates other paramilitary groups, associated with Talks' parties, as having broken their ceasefires and will not hesitate in taking the same decisive action.
- By their action the Governments have clearly demonstrated their commitment to the Mitchell Principles and to upholding the integrity of the Talks process.

*Position of the UDP*

- If over a period of weeks a complete, unequivocal and unqualified UFF ceasefire were established through word and deed to have been fully and continuously observed, we would consider the UDP rejoining, indeed welcome the prospect in those circumstances.
- [If pressed over access to Ministers, etc: we will assess this in the light of events.]

*Dr Mowlam's meeting with the loyalist prisoners*

- Dr Mowlam did not negotiate with the prisoners. The purpose of the meeting was to explain to the prisoners the importance of the Talks process in reaching a settlement at a time of rising tension within the community.

*Strand Two Paper*

- This paper was provided to facilitate discussion about North-South structures. Our views are well known. All the parties need to engage with each other, to contribute their ideas or analysis. Final outcome depends on agreement. The deal has got to be one parties feel ownership of.
- In the document the Governments reaffirm that they are firmly committed to the positions in the Joint Declaration and the New Framework for Agreement as their best assessment of where

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agreement may be found in Talks. We cannot and do not seek to impose anything. There is no blueprint.

*Progress in Talks*

- Progress is being made. The parties are addressing the detailed elements across all three strands. There is not a great deal of time. We must not miss this opportunity.
- The door remains open for the DUP to return to the Talks.

*UUP Engagement with Sinn Fein*

- That is a matter for the UUP. I believe that there should be maximum engagement of all parties.

*General Security Situation*

- The Government does not take its security responsibilities lightly and will continue to reintroduce whatever security measures are necessary.
- The security forces took immediate steps to meet the recent increased threat by increasing patrolling significantly in Belfast. The Chief Constable also set up a special team to investigate the recent incidents. Over a dozen people have been arrested and questioned in connection with serious incidents, including murder.

*Situation in the Maze Prison*

- Both the escape of Liam Averill and the incidents surrounding the murder of Billy Wright are being thoroughly investigated.
- The RUC are undertaking a full police investigation into the death of prisoner Bill Wright.
- An independent inquiry into recent events in HMP Maze is underway. It is being led by Mr Martin Narey, Director of Prison Regimes in the Prison Service of England and Wales. In addition there is a forthcoming inspection of the Maze by Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales, General Sir David Ramsbottom.
- The reports of both the inquiry and the inspection will be published.
- In light of the police investigation and the work of the inquiry it would be inappropriate for me to comment on these matters.

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