

FROM: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

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**NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
11 MILLBANK  
LONDON  
SW1P 4QE**

John Holmes Esq.  
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister  
No. 10 Downing Street  
LONDON

26 January 1998

*C: PB  
AC  
JPB*

*Dear John*

**NI TALKS AT LANCASTER HOUSE**

The Prime Minister will hold short meetings with the talks participants (including the Irish government and the Chairmen) from 5-6.30 pm at Lancaster House on 27 January. I attach a schedule for the meetings (Annex A); draft speaking notes for the meetings (Annex B); and a draft speaking note which the Prime Minister may wish to draw on at the reception (Annex C).

Ten minutes have been allocated for each of the meetings, with the exception of the those with the UUP and Sinn Fein: the Prime Minister has met them both recently, and so their meetings will last only five minutes. The parties will be met in alphabetical order and party delegations will be limited to four. The Secretary of State and Mr Murphy stand ready to accompany the Prime Minister. To make it easier for the Prime Minister to break away from each meeting, the meetings will alternate between the Secretary of State's room and Mr Murphy's room. Each delegation will be escorted to and from the meeting.

In view of the UDP's withdrawal from the Talks this party is not included in the schedule of meetings.

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Ltr Holmes Talks at Lancaster House/WKLrm





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The question of press coverage of the Prime Minister only at the beginning of the reception is being pursued separately. We are testing the water with the parties, in particular the UUP, who have particular concerns about this whole issue.

*Yours*  
*David Vyle*  
for **W K LINDSAY**

P.S. A copy of the guest list  
is also enclosed for info.

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