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Some of the issues you may be confronted with at 12.30 today

#### NORTH-SOUTH STRUCTURE:

1. The definition of the structure is more important to Trimble than the specific areas of co-operation.
2. They want an East-West dimension (i.e. London, Edinburgh, Cardiff involvement) as well as a Belfast-Dublin relationship.
3. They might be prepared to put more emphasis on the North-South structure provided that the all-Ireland dimension is dependent on the continued existence and success of the Northern Ireland Assembly. The idea, not a bad one, is that the nationalists should have a vested interest in making the new Assembly work.

#### DECOMMISSIONING:

Trimble believes this must be achieved before Assembly elections. Otherwise Sinn Fein and Loyalist representatives will enter the Assembly supported by armed groups.

#### ASSEMBLY MAJORITY:

The Unionist contention is that the 70 per cent requirement to carry votes in the Assembly will make it unworkable. Sinn Fein and the Loyalists will combine in an unholy alliance to wreck it.

#### POLICING:

1. Inevitably, Trimble is against an international commission to determine future policing. And he's against South Africa involvement. He accepts that the Assembly must be united in support of any police structure, but offers no ideas.
2. He is adamant that the suggestion of a two-tier force with community policing as the street level element of this would be a disaster. It would effectively mean recruits would come from the paramilitaries on both sides, giving a bunch of thugs 'official' status.



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IRISH GOVERNMENT/NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE:

1. Trimble mistrusts both. Accepts Aherne's sincerity. But thinks that both the Dublin and Belfast civil service will not deliver in hard detail on the soft 'diplomatic' promises made by Aherne and No. 10. Hence, he's not convinced that Irish constitution changes will mean much.
2. Suspicious of NIO because its vested interest is to retain its power rather than hand it over to elected representatives. New head of NIO has not even introduced himself to Trimble.
3. Wants PM, Bertie and himself to agree the detail and feed it into the talks. Trimble is also persuaded that PM and Bertie should be seen to be distant enough from talks to act as 'court of appeal'.