NOTES FOR BRUTON



Europe

- Admire speed of your tour of Europe! Look forward to seeing you here on 9 December. How's it going?
- Key for us is that our positions should be fully reflected in document at Dublin, not relegated to annexes or footnotes.
- Do not believe a great leap forward likely at Dublin on the IGC. Still too early in the negotiations. Amsterdam is the key date.
- Could be some awkward discussions on EMU and the Stability Pact if Germans do not soften their position on automaticity.

Northern Ireland

- Find ourselves in an increasingly untenable position. Hume/Adams initiative out in public and everyone's view on it is known except ours.
- Huge pressure here to spell out our position. Asked on Tuesday and bound to be asked again today. Will have to respond more clearly than before, and publish our draft statement.
- Know you would rather I didn't. But no choice. Our statement will not close any doors, and is certainly <u>compatible</u> with the idea of entry by Sinn Fein after the Christmas break.

- But cannot say that in advance (although we might drop hints). Our position has to be that how fast Sinn Fein can come in after a ceasefire depends entirely on the IRA and Sinn Fein's words and deeds.
- We are doing no more than we were asked to do all the way through the Hume exercise, ie set out our position in public on the issues he raised. Cannot allow this to hang on over another weekend, when you failed to extract any meaningful language or progress at all from Sinn Fein.
- Emphasise that no avenues closed off. But there is no merit in not making our position clear it cannot change in substance in any event.
- The bottom line is that any new ceasefire will have to convince us, and not only us, that it is meant to last and that Sinn Fein are really committed to exclusively peaceful means.
- We have always agreed on that, and I hope you will be able to support our general approach now.

Early Think