

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH MR. MOLYNEAUX AND DR. PAISLEY

I attach the briefing folder which you had over the weekend.
I have also added to it as Flag H a note by the Foreign
Secretary which he sent in just before the meeting this
evening.

I have amended the main speaking note and the draft Press
Statement to use formula 2 from Sir Robert Armstrong's minute.
I shall have the various formulae typed on separate bits
of paper so that you could discuss them with Mr. Molyneux
and Dr. Paisley if necessary.

You mentioned that you might go down to the front door to
meet the two Unionist leaders on arrival. I do not want
to oppose your instinct on this. On the other hand it would
be very unusual, would be in full view of television and
press cameras and might have just a whiff of weakness about
it (though I know that your intention is simply to extend
the greatest possible courtesy to them).

CDP

CDP

24 February 1986

VC85

MEETING WITH MR MOLYNEAUX AND DR. PAISLEY

1. Want a dialogue. Got some proposals to make. Ready to listen to yours.
2. Anglo-Irish Agreement exists and has endorsement of Parliament. Couldn't side-track it even if I wanted to. At same time, recognise significance the Unionist vote in by-elections.
3. Agreement is bringing benefits: arms finds in Sligo and Roscommon. Signature yesterday of European Convention on Suppression of Terrorism. Have

cont/

Taoiseach

- pressed the Taoiseach hard for improvements in surveillance and intelligence.
4. Working hard for moves by SDLP: seeing Hume on Thursday.
 5. Respect and understand wish to be consulted fully. Ready to propose arrangements for this, which could cover security questions among others.
 6. Want early discussion on devolution. Willing to consider Round-Table Conference. Offers best way

to reduce the scope of the Agreement. We could construct a scheme within the 1982 Act. Must give a role to the minority but need not mean a power-sharing executive.

7. Also want discussions on:

- future of the Assembly
- handling of Northern Ireland business at Westminster.

8. You know that I cannot suspend the Agreement. What I can say is that, if after discussion with all concerned the ideas raised in our talk today bore fruit, we should need to
/consider

we should need to

consider what that meant for the work of the intergovernmental Conference.

9. Let's reflect on each other's views, and meet again soon for another talk.

cc N10

File
ls



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 February, 1986.

I am sorry to cause you any inconvenience, but I have to change the time of your meeting with the Prime Minister next Tuesday, 25 February.

I hope it will be convenient for you to come to No.10 at 0930 instead of 1000?

(Mrs. Caroline Ryder)

The Rt. Hon. James Molyneaux, M.P.

PS Please do not bother to reply if this is convenient.

ECW

cc. N10 file to



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The Reverend Ian Paisley, M.P.

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EC