

SPEAKING NOTE

- Wanted to seek your advice and give you some reassurance about what has been going on with Hume/Adams.
- Need to do so on Privy Council terms. Also wanted to see you as leader of the UUP and one of Westminster's wisest and most experienced Parliamentarians.
- Taoiseach has told me that he hopes to be in a position to make a proposition he believes can secure an end to Provisional violence.
- This fits with assessment of my intelligence advisers that Provisionals want to end violence but must have a sufficient justifying pretext. [Show intelligence assessment - not for Mr Molyneaux's retention.]
- Want to assure you that at no point has Government been involved in direct or indirect talks or negotiations with the Provisionals about this. But you will understand duty to take seriously anything with real chance of ending the violence, and that we make our own assessment of that.
- Proposal involves Joint Declaration by Taoiseach and me on the basis that it would lead to ending of PIRA violence. I believe that this text [show draft Joint Declaration - not for retention] may be something we could live with if the prize of peace would result, but only on condition that the express reference to Northern Ireland's statutory guarantee remains.
- Nothing more to Initiative. There are no side deals or private understandings. Sinn Fein could take part in proposed Convention. We are not asked to talk to the Provisionals ourselves. But if violence does end we would obviously look at the range of our responses to it (as Martin Smyth said).

- Don't know at this stage whether a text on these lines will come to fruition. If it does go further would welcome your judgement and counsel on how it will be received in Northern Ireland.

- Not looking for your commitment to this initiative, would not expect it. Would like to feel I had your personal support for judgement that it is right to consider this.