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Albert: I may go it alone

Warning for Major on North initiative

By TIM RYAN, Political Reporter

THE Taoiseach is prepared to go it alone with new peace proposals on the North if an initiative cannot be agreed with the British Prime Minister at next month's summit meeting.

"If it comes to it" Mr Reynolds told me. "I will walk away from John Major and put forward a set of proposals myself." However, he still hoped that proposals for a new Northern initiative could be agreed at the December 3 summit in Dublin.

The summit with Mr Major is regarded by Mr Reynolds as crucial to breaking the current deadlock. If Mr Major does not come to an agreement, the Taoiseach will then be convinced that he has been compromised by the Ulster Unionist Party.

Such a situation would prove the greatest obstacle to movement in the current situation, he believes.

"I'm absolutely committed to bringing about peace in this island," said the Taoiseach. "I'm not prepared to let this opportunity go."

"We must find a formula to end the violence. It's absolutely crucial for all of us — and for the future of this island."

There was now an expectation among the majority of people, north and south, that a peace formula should be produced, said Mr Reynolds. He believed that a firm set of proposals should be put forward before Christmas while such an atmosphere prevailed.

It is known that a number of proposals from both Governments have been considered during recent weeks. These have now been whittled down and Mr Reynolds believes that the Dublin summit represents "make or break time."

Mr Major has so far indicated that his chief priority is re-activating the three-strand inter-party talks

