

- Helpful if you could soon send us your long-awaited paper on constitutional issues. Will not [this time, we hope!] be a public document. But the unionists will be watching like hawks to see whether you are participating actively, or conversely showing little interest.

- Have always regarded the Joint Declaration and the Talks process as complimentary exercise. If we can sustain an active political dialogue on Northern Ireland's future, we shall avoid a political vacuum and benefit from an existing framework in which Sinn Fein might, in due course, participate.

- Sir Patrick Mayhew may wish to add a few words on the next steps in the process.

iv. **THORP**

[The THORP decision will not be welcome to the Irish. They will have heard of the impending announcement through the media. It would be a courtesy to mention this to the Taoiseach:]

- John Gummer will be announcing this afternoon that he has decided to grant the necessary authorizations for discharges from THORP. That means the THORP reprocessing plant can go ahead.

- A number of new conditions are being imposed to ensure that discharges from the site are minimised (eg specific limit on uranium discharges).