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 initiate discussions with all the parties, including the Irish Government. However, unionist sources last night told *The Irish Times* that they did not consider themselves bound to resume the talks following a meeting of the conference. While they indicated they would continue the talks until July 16th, it was not their intention to in damaging the existing Anglo-Irish Agreement than in working out they should not be seen to negotiate "under the terms of the Anglo-Irish Agreement". While London and Dublin have not over-emphasised the significance of the "gap" in conference meetings, the unionist leadership seemingly regarded it as a one-off

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 certainly not at all during August. In reply, Mr Brooke said that he would be "a devil".
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 Mr Molyneux instead concentrated on calling for modest changes in parliamentary procedure at Westminster, to give the North's MPs more input into legislation. Dr Paisley, however, declared a lack of interest "in any cosmetic exercise or in some slight tinkering with the existing frameworks".
 More predictable, but nevertheless fundamental, differences also emerged between the SDLP and the unionists on the role of the Irish Government in the internal affairs of the North. The DUP and UUP published their leaders' opening submissions yesterday, and copies of the SDLP and Alliance submissions were seen by *The Irish Times*.
 Yesterday at Dublin Airport, the Taoiseach, Mr Haughey, reiterated the Government's determination that the meeting of the Anglo-Irish Conference, planned for July 16th, will go ahead. Before leaving for Paris, Mr Haughey said: "there was a clear understanding that the meeting would be on July 16th, and that will be adhered to".
 He promised flexibility on arrangements after that meeting.



inference, at the National Concert Hall, in Dublin yesterday. (Photograph: Peter Thursfield)

Unionists differ on devolution in submissions

IRISH TIMES 21.6.91 p1

From Mark Brennock, Northern Editor

SHARP differences between the two unionist parties on the amount of power that should be devolved to any new Northern Ireland administration have been confirmed during the opening submissions to the talks at Stormont this week.

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This offer of "flexibility", which has been made by several Government spokesmen, is understood to mean that the Government would favour having another gap between meetings of the conference in the autumn to allow talks to continue.

The document presented to the other parties by the SDLP leader, Mr John Hume, maintains that the Anglo-Irish Agreement represents an "irreversible breakthrough in understanding and tackling the underlying causes of Anglo-Irish conflict. The abiding reality, recognised by the Anglo-Irish Agreement, is the right of the Irish Government to involvement in the affairs of Northern Ireland".

The unionist documents, predictably, did not recognise this "abiding reality" but repeated their aims of getting rid of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, and the Government's role in the North's internal affairs.

Dr Paisley also said that any new assembly in Northern Ireland must have a significant input into security policy. This issue is expected to be one of the major bones of contention during the talks.

The talks resume again on Monday, when Mr Paisley will be questioned further by the other parties on his submission.

Kathryn Hone writes from Paris: The Taoiseach told reporters he would be discussing the present state of the Brooks talks when he met the British Prime Minister, Mr Major, in London today. Mr Haughey said that President Mitterrand had been anxious for information on the talks. "I said I personally have a belief that the arrival of European political union will have a major bearing on the situation with regard to the two parts of Ireland," Mr Haughey said.

Charges Gulf

left on the sidelines during the six-week period between the passing of the use-of-force resolution in the Security Council on November 29th and January 12th, when he made an 11th hour rush to Baghdad, where his mediation efforts were rejected by President Saddam Hussein. Critics of the Secretary-General say he should have asserted himself more strongly before that.
 In the letter, Mr Francois

Rate of inflation increases to 3.1%

By Cliff Taylor, Economics Editor

THE annual rate of inflation increased to 3.1 per cent in the middle of last month, up from 2.6 per cent in February, although Ireland still remains one of the low inflation members of the EC. The unexpectedly sharp rise in the inflation rate...

