

These Constitutional Talks will shape the future of Northern Ireland. The agreement which ordinary people in both parts of the community so ardently hope will result from them will only be achieved if the Talks proceed in private. All the participants have agreed on this.

It follows from this that any leak must have been calculated by its perpetrator to prevent agreement and frustrate the Talks. Whoever is responsible would therefore face the condemnation of all ordinary, right-thinking people in Northern Ireland. No-one who did it, and ~~no-one~~ ^{we} who does it again, can count on their identity staying secret. For my own part I am wholly satisfied that anyone who leaked this document had no vestige of authority to do so on behalf of any political Party and I know that their action is uniformly and vehemently condemned by each Party Leader participating in the Talks.

We are not going to reward the perpetrator by allowing our consultations to be halted, or interrupted, by this episode. But we each restate our determination that they proceed in private.