

POINTS TO MAKE

- Glad that the drafting work since our meeting on 3 December has proceeded so well. Can we confirm that you and I are both content with the latest text?
- Can we also confirm that we envisage making the Joint Declaration in London on Tuesday 14 December at a joint press conference, and that we will both be making statements to our respective Parliaments the following day?
- Suggest that our officials should co-ordinate closely on Monday to clear the ground.
- Hope we can dampen down expectations of our meeting today. I am concerned that we should not stoke up fears in Northern Ireland about the progress which is being made. We do not want to be blown off course now.
- Would be a mistake if you were to announce an Irish Convention either at our press conference or shortly thereafter. Would be seen as the price of a deal with the Provisionals which had been suppressed from the Joint Declaration itself. Would also increase Unionists suspicions, especially that the two Governments have abandoned the Talks process.
- As you know, I am going to need to make clear before Christmas that I will invite Parliament in the New Year to agree to establish a Northern Ireland Select Committee. Essential to have balancing gesture for Mr Molyneaux. As you know, there is a good case on the merits for a Select Committee. It genuinely would not pre-empt the outcome of the Talks process. We would be concerned to encourage Parliament to ensure proper cross community representation.