

PA

NOTE OF A CONVERSATION WITH DR. IAN PAISLEY AT 1845 ON THURSDAY,
8 NOVEMBER 1979

Dr. Paisley said that he had received the Prime Minister's latest letter to him. He was not sure whether she had been under a misconception, but there was no possibility of his agreeing to meet her with Mr. Molyneaux and Mr. Fitt. There were no circumstances under which he would enter into discussions with Mr. Fitt about Northern Ireland security matters.

He said that Mr. Atkins was anxious to meet him, but he could not do so until the position about his request to see the Prime Minister had been clarified. Dr. Paisley said that he had no wish to sabotage the conference, and had kept his party's position open, but he had to have a meeting with the Prime Minister.

He said that Mr. Molyneaux was "a different kettle of fish" to Mr. Fitt, but he did not see why Mr. Molyneaux should be present at any meeting with the Prime Minister.

Since the Secretary of State was anxious to meet him very soon, he wanted an early clarification of what the Prime Minister had intended to say.

He added that he was about to leave for Belfast and would be home at 2230.

MJS

8 November 1979