

NOTE FOR THE FILE

cc Mr Alexander
Mr Gow

I had two conversations with Dr. Paisley on the telephone this morning. During the first call I offered him a meeting with the Prime Minister this evening at 2020 at the House of Commons, but omitted to mention that it was for 15 minutes only. He told me that he would have to fly over specially and that it was not terribly convenient. I mentioned that next week's diary was very bad and that it would be difficult to offer him an alternative.

Following a discussion with Mr. Alexander and Mr. Gow to the effect that it was essential that the 15 minute duration was mentioned, I rang Dr. Paisley again and said that I would try to find him a time next week if that suited him better. He was extremely angry that he was only being offered 15 minutes, pointing out that Mr. Hume had been given 50 minutes yesterday evening. He said that the Protestants were used to being treated in this way. We discussed the possibility of a 1530 meeting after Questions on Thursday 21 May but as the conversation progressed he became less happy about the meeting taking place at all and it was left that I would ring him at 0930 tomorrow, Friday 15 May on Belfast 655 694 when he would tell me whether or not he intends to accept this time.

NB | As I shall not be here at 0930 tomorrow morning, Mr Alexander will ring him.

ej.

14 May 1981