



Prime Minister.

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To Sec. we have  
asked NIO for  
urgent advice.

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24/10/79

MS.

26/10/79

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of my two Parliamentary colleagues and myself I wish to make an urgent request to you for a meeting about Security in Northern Ireland.

I enclose a statement which my Party has just made on H.M.G.'s proposals for Northern Ireland. This statement explains our request for a Security meeting.

Sincerely  
Gay Paisley

Enc.,



# *Ulster Democratic Unionist Party*

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The Democratic Unionist Party has not only the will but the determination to see that a proper form of devolved Parliament and Government are established in Northern Ireland.

The Party believes that only such a Government can safeguard the future of the province within the United Kingdom, and that any tinkering with local Government would be a mere cosmetic exercise. Any local council reform should be the responsibility of devolved government.

Unlike the Official Unionists the D.U.P. is not prepared to settle for the proposal on mere local council reform in the Tory manifesto.

We welcome the fact that Her Majesty's Government are also determined to seek an acceptable way of restoring to the people of Northern Ireland more control over their own affairs, and to devolve powers of government at present exercised from Westminster.

The Democratic Unionist Party believes that the first thing that needs to be done is to re-establish confidence in the ballot box, and therefore puts clearly on record that any steps towards the establishment of a devolved government must be seen to have the approval through the ballot box of the majority of the Ulster people. They are perfectly prepared to accept the challenge that was put to the people of Scotland and Wales, the challenge of a referendum requiring a 40% majority.

We also welcome the clear statement of the Secretary of State on behalf of the Government that the responsibility for Northern Ireland and its future rests with the people of Northern Ireland, the Parliament of the United Kingdom and the Government of the United Kingdom, and that the Government of the South of Ireland will not be included in any talks on devolved government. This is both the legal and right attitude and must be maintained.

The elected members for Northern Ireland in the United Kingdom Parliament must be given their proper place in any consultation. If, as has been suggested by the Secretary of State, that the talks should only be among the representatives of the Democratic Unionist Party, the Official Unionist Party, the Alliance Party and the



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S.D.L.P. then a Party like the Alliance Party, which has no elected representatives at Westminster, is going to find itself in a more favourable position than elected Unionist members of Parliament like Mr James Kilfedder and Mr John Dunlop. Such a position is basically wrong and is not acceptable to the Democratic Unionist Party. Hence my insistence in the House of Commons that the Consultative Document which is to set forth alternatives and also the Government's proposals for discussions should be referred to the Northern Ireland Committee of the House, on which all members from Northern Ireland serve. Of course the House of Commons itself should have the opportunity as a whole to consider the Consultative Document. The Democratic Unionist Party would then favour a properly elected Conference of the people of Northern Ireland to consider the Consultative Document; people with a mandate and not people who are non-elected. Parliamentary representatives have already a mandate to consider matters that are within the competence of the Parliament, but non-elected members, we feel strongly, are not the people to consider the future of Northern Ireland.

We welcome the fact that the Secretary of State, speaking on behalf of the Government, did not overrule the suggestion that at the end of the day the whole matter should be referred to a referendum of all the people of Northern Ireland.

The Democratic Unionist Party feels that if any Constitution is going to stick, it is not going to stick through any Parliamentary election or through a Parliamentary majority as a result of such an election but by a vote on the principle by the whole of the people of Northern Ireland, political personalities thus being left aside. If the people of Northern Ireland in such a referendum give their approval to the Constitution presented to them, then it is up to every democratic politician to work that system that has been chosen and approved of by the people.

There is, however, one priority consideration and that is the security of Northern Ireland. The Democratic Unionist Party is firmly on record as being far from satisfied with the present state of affairs in the security field. The present Government has failed the people of Ulster in this vital matter.

The Party approves fully the District Council's resolution on security and in fact has tabled that resolution in Westminster. So far only the Democratic Unionist members have signed that resolution.



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The Democratic Unionist Party are now asking for an immediate meeting with the Prime Minister on the question of Northern Ireland's security. If as the result of that meeting they are satisfied that Her Majesty's Government are really going to take decisive steps in the security field, the Party will be prepared to play its full part along the lines indicated in this statement.