

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE REV IAN PAISLEY

BRIEFING AGREED BETWEEN NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE AND NO 10

The Prime Minister, accompanied by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, saw the Rev Ian Paisley for 40 minutes last night, at Dr Paisley's request, to discuss security in Northern Ireland. Dr Paisley expressed disquiet about the present security situation. The Prime Minister spelt out the action which Government had taken over the past six months and repeated her determination to deal firmly with terrorism. She undertook to look into any specific problems raised by Dr Paisley if he would provide details on the points at issue.

If asked:

We can confirm that Dr Paisley returned two medals from UDR people to the Prime Minister [to protest at the Government's restriction on the Army's freedom of action in Northern Ireland].