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PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH MR. MOLYNEAUX AND DR. PAISLEY

I attach, for your meeting on Tuesday:

- ✓ A A basic speaking note for use with Mr. Molyneaux and Dr. Paisley.
- ✓ B Draft of a press statement designed for use if further talks are agreed upon.
- ✓ C Draft of a press statement for use if talks break down.
- ✓ D Background note on types of devolution.
- ✓ E Background note on procedures for handling Northern Ireland business at Westminster.
- ✓ F Note of your last meeting with Mr. Molyneaux and Dr. Paisley.
- ✓ G Note of your meeting last Thursday.

We propose to let you have on Monday a further note with material to refute the various allegations which the Unionists are likely to make.

A key point - probably the key point - is what can be said to the Unionists and later publicly about the implication for the Anglo-Irish Agreement of progress on other issues. The sentence we propose is:

"If after discussion with all concerned the ideas raised in our talk today bore fruit, ^{we should need} ~~it would be necessary to consider how that affected the operation of the~~ Anglo-Irish Agreement." *of the Inter-Governmental Conference*

That would be strictly accurate in relation to devolution,

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though the other matters - consultation with the Unionists, procedures at Westminster - are not of course dealt with in the Agreement.

This formulation is better than saying

"... how that would affect the Agreement";

or

"what consequences that would have for the Agreement"

since both formulations might suggest that the Agreement could be put aside. But personally I think that in the last resort you could justify either formulation by pointing to the reaffirmation in the proposed public statement of the Government's commitment to implement the Agreement.

It would be prudent to warn the Irish Government whichever formulation we decide to use.

C.D.P

CDP

21 February 1986

SRWAPK