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## Prime Minister Major's meeting with DUP

- Peter Bell supplied me with a brief readout on what had occurred, based on a note of the meeting now received in the NIO. He described it as something "out of the pages of a Tom Sharpe novel".
- 2. The meeting quickly developed into a shouting match, with both Paisley and Robinson attempting to shout the Prime Minister down. Robinson in particular, on a number of occasions, described the Downing Street communique as a recipie for war! The Prime Minister tried a number of times to read out parts of the Declaration, but on each occasion was greeted with a chorus of shouting from the DUP delegation who kept repeating "The people of Northern Ireland alone", presumably in reference to the issue of self-determination.
- 3. The only point of substance, according to Bell, came when Paisley muttered "Let's have a border poll". The Prime Minister's response was to assert that holding a border poll would not advance things.