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Reference Code: 2021/99/21

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Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)

15 September 1997

STATEMENT BY DAVID TRIMBLE

Following the positive meeting of the Ulster Unionist party Executive, we welcome the clear statements made by the British and Irish governments over the weekend.

Firstly, the acceptance that consent will be the guiding principle in the talks, ie not only will the outcome depend on consent but that consent will govern the actual conduct of the talks. Secondly, the clear statement on actual decommissioning during talks - language that the Irish government would not use in July. We agree that this is "indispensable".

Consequently we have been in touch with the Northern Ireland Office and the office of Senator Mitchell, the talks chairman. Paul Murphy MP the Minister for Political Development will be here at Glengall Street soon and we will meet Senator Mitchell this evening.

We have opened discussions concerning the precise procedural arrangements for our involvement in the multi-party talks. These discussions are focussing on the format of any substantive talks and the handling of the outstanding procedural matters of which the most important concerns the Agenda for substantive talks.

Depending on the progress made in these discussions we intend to be present at Castle Grounds as soon as possible.

We have also had a very positive meeting this morning with the ~~PPP~~ and the UDP and hope to be in contact with other ~~parties~~ as the day progresses