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cc: PS/Ministers (L&B) (M)  
 PS/PUS (L&B) (M)  
 Mr Bell ✓  
 Mr Marshall (M)  
 Mr Blesloch  
 Mr Wyatt  
 Mr Buxton  
 Mr Doyne Ditmas  
 Mr Gilliland  
 Mr Davenport  
 Mr Chesterton (M)  
 Miss MacGlashan

PS/Secretary of State (L&B) (M)ANGLO IRISH SUMMIT: LOCAL REACTIONS

1. While it is too early to make a definitive assessment, I think we can already see broadly how people are reacting in the Province to the Summit in London on Friday.
  
2. In public the main parties have reacted predictably. The loudest noise has come from the DUP. Mr Paisley, who condemned the Summit results even before the meeting took place, said he would work to wreck what he saw as a new attempt to hand Ulster over to the enemy. He welcomed the marches in Kells and Connor by protesting loyalists on Friday night (though he claimed to have no foreknowledge of them the marchers were according to the press DUP-led). At a meeting on Saturday night, 7 November, Mr Paisley appealed to all unionists dedicated to the return of Stormont to unite. He promised to stage a rally on 23 November which would be a major event, and to take further action on the lines of the loyalist takeover of villages the night before. The time for parliamentary opposition to the Anglo-Irish Council had passed; Northern Ireland needed its own Parliament and Government to thwart efforts to push the Province towards Irish unity. He planned to convene a meeting of unionists and loyalists to discuss positive proposals for devolved government, which would then be presented to the Secretary of State.
  
3. The most widely publicised reaction has come from the UDA. Andy Tyrie said on Friday that the UDA would oppose an Anglo Irish Council but doubted whether anything loyalists could do could bring it down. He called for unionist parties to work for a solution together. In a radio interview yesterday John McMichael, the leader of the ULDP, the UDA's political wing, repeated these sentiments. The days of marching were over. Loyalists and unionists should get together to discuss positive proposals for governing Northern Ireland and thus make the

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Anglo Irish talks irrelevant.

4. The Official Unionist Party have reacted more cautiously, perhaps because of the customary indecision at the top. Mr Molyneaux described the new Anglo Irish Council in a radio interview as a monstrosity. Harold McCusker, however, praised McMichael's suggestion; and Martin Smyth, the Orange Order leader, said that the Order would probably wait to see which direction the Anglo Irish Council took: Mr Haughey might have been right in saying that the Taoiseach had got nothing out of the Summit. At a press conference this morning, Mr Molyneaux announced the establishment of an Anglo-Ulster Council for the Union open to all people in Ulster or GB, as a response both to the Anglo-Irish Council and to the initiatives by Dr Paisley and the UDA for unionist unity.
5. On the nationalist side of the fence, the SDLP has welcomed the Summit, in private as well as in public, as a step in the right direction - though some of the greener elements will no doubt echo Mr Haughey's feelings that it did not go far enough. The Provisionals have helpfully condemned the establishment of a Council as a move towards reassertion of British influence throughout all Ireland. The IIP weakly echoed this point.
6. Local politicians to whom we have spoken are struck by the call from both the DUP and the UDA for the establishment of a joint unionist position to confront and perhaps circumvent the Anglo Irish Council. Molyneaux's similar move will be seen as a typically belated and half-baked response.
7. Despite all the sound and fury, our overall impression is that Unionists are not up in arms over the summit. As Oliver Napier said to me last night, the DUP would find it difficult to point to any particular provision in the communique or joint studies to which loyalists can take violent exception. He himself had had no feedback of genuine complaints from unionists, except for an orchestrated series of telephone calls. Hugh Smyth of the PUP told me he thought the DUP and OUP were being silly. He was pleased that the Taoiseach had again accepted the constitutional position of Northern Ireland, and



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he thought the passages on economic co-operation sensible. If Dr Paisley tried to get people on the streets in the Shankill, he would be laughed out of sight. This may be true of the Shankill, but I suspect that the DUP will be able to rouse more indignation in areas like Antrim, Lisburn and Craigavon where it has influence. And according to Martin Smyth a meeting of OUP leaders on Friday night expressed considerable concern and suspicion at the establishment of an Anglo-Ireland Council; there was "deep revulsion" in some parts of the UUP.



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