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SECURE FAX NO:

TAOISEACH  
TO SEE PLEASE  
*S. I. Hume*

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MR. P. TEAHON  
MR. S. DONLON  
MR. T. DALTON

21 MARCH 1996

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON  
FOR SECRETARY O'BUIGINN FROM P HENNESSY

Please cc B Scannell

**PAISLEY AT THE WHITE HOUSE**

1. The DUP leader Ian Paisley met today at the White House with the National Security Adviser Tony Lake; the meeting, which lasted about 40 minutes, included a drop-by by the President. Paisley was accompanied by two DUP supporters, businessmen (construction engineers) Trevor Turkington and Jim Mc Keague. A copy of the White House press release issued following the meeting is attached.
2. Paisley expressed himself very disappointed with the decisions taken by the British Government in regard to the election arrangements. He suggested that if he and John Hume - together, he claimed, with the smaller parties except for Alliance - were agreed on an election formula this should constitute the "broad agreement" sought by the British Government. He made it clear however that he will participate in the elections, and in the forum.
3. As regards participation in the all-party talks, the White House found Paisley's position difficult to read, which they found encouraging in itself. While giving the usual explanation of the need for decommissioning, he did not explicitly cite actual decommissioning as a requirement for participation in the talks, allowing the impression to remain that formal acceptance of the Mitchell Principles might be sufficient.
4. However Paisley also expressed concern that the Prime Minister's statement today at Westminster had fallen short of assurances given by Major to "Unionist party leaders" on the need for full adherence by talks parties to the Mitchell Principles.
5. As regards the impact of the particular election formula chosen, Paisley thought that Alliance, who benefit disproportionately from second preferences, would be particularly badly affected. Paisley also offered the view that John Hume and the SDLP would participate in the elections,

but would absent themselves from the forum. It seems Paisley did not on this occasion dwell on the Irish Government's role in the process.

6. During the discussion with the President, Paisley sought to argue that the US had not been sufficiently even-handed, and suggested that the Administration make clear, for example, that the wish of the majority to remain within the Union should be supported. While the President did not respond directly, after he left Lake took up the point, arguing strongly that the sole US objective was to secure a negotiated agreement acceptable to the parties, and that it was not attached to any particular outcome.

#### Elections

7. We have sent separately the White House statement on the elections proposals. In contacts with the NSC they have emphasized that their objective is to facilitate the transition to all-party talks, and that they have not moved from their position of declining to endorse any one particular formula. That said, they clearly hope that the parties will take the view that they should make the best of what is now on offer. Lake had not made contact with Hume up to late this evening, but will try to speak with him, Trimble and, possibly, Alderdice tomorrow (Fri).

ENDS

03/21/86 21:02  
03/21/86 18:30

NSC PRESS OFFICE

## THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

March 21, 1986

For Immediate Release

## STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

## PRESIDENTIAL MEETING WITH DR. IAN PAISLEY

The leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, the Reverend Ian Paisley, met at the White House today with National Security Advisor Anthony Lake for half an hour. The President joined them for part of the meeting.

The President, Mr. Lake and Dr. Paisley deplored the end of the IRA cease-fire and reiterated their condemnation of the bombings in London last month. The President underscored his belief that the vast majority of the people of Northern Ireland are firmly committed to peace and democracy and desire a lasting settlement to the conflict that has darkened their lives for a generation. He expressed his determination to support the people of Northern Ireland and the parties that represent them in their efforts to achieve that goal.

The President and Mr. Lake discussed with Dr. Paisley the process leading to substantive talks on the future of Northern Ireland starting on June 10, in particular the announcement made earlier today in London about the election on May 30 and the role of the elected forum. They emphasized the importance of the United States attaches to the viewpoints of both communities in Northern Ireland and the need for political parties to stay engaged in the process. The President described the role of the United States in supporting the search for peace. He stressed that the United States has no preferred outcome to the negotiations, but wants to see a just and lasting settlement in Northern Ireland.

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