

SECRET

CAB 4/1648/14

1972/18

CONCLUSIONS OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT STORMONT CASTLE ON
FRIDAY, 24 MARCH 1972, AT 3 PM

PRESENT: The Prime Minister
The Minister in the Senate
The Minister of Finance
The Minister of Health and Social Services
The Minister of Education
The Minister of Agriculture
The Minister of Commerce
The Minister of Development
The Minister of Community Relations
The Minister of State at the Ministry of Finance
The Minister of State at the Department of the Prime Minister

ALSO PRESENT: The Secretary to the Cabinet
The Government Security Adviser
The Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet
The Principal

POLITICAL SETTLEMENT

Ministers agreed that -

- (1) A draft statement should be issued immediately summarising the Government's recommendations to the United Kingdom Government over the last two months for a political settlement.
- (2) A copy of the Prime Minister's statement earlier in the day should be sent to all Westminster MPs.
- (3) A White Paper should be published incorporating both the Prime Minister's statement and the later Government statement.

Ministers paid warm tribute to the skill and devotion of the Secretary and Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet throughout the administration and particularly during recent difficult negotiations.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent from the Prime Minister to the Head of the Civil Service thanking the entire Civil Service staff for their support.

The Deputy Secretary explained the procedure for the custody of and access to Cabinet papers on a change of administration.

Finally, Ministers agreed their attitude in relation to TV appearances and press comment over the following few days.

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