

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETINGS WITH NORTHERN IRELAND MPs

As you know, in response to a request from Ian Paisley, the PM wrote to him on 5 November offering a meeting to discuss security problems in Northern Ireland. The PM offered the same facility to Mr James Molyneaux and Mr Gerry Fitt MPs.

The first two have accepted the invitation and the meetings are to be held as follows:

James Molyneaux	-	1600	14 November	HoC
Ian Paisley	-	2015	14 November	HoC

Gerry Fitt has declined the invitation to meet the PM and has let this be known to the press.

After consulting Private Office and Northern Ireland Office, I have confirmed that Gerry Fitt has declined the offer of a meeting, that the PM offered Northern Ireland leaders the same facility and it was obviously up to each of them whether they wished to take it up. [The Irish 'Times', who have spoken to Mr Fitt, said that they understood Mr Fitt intended no snub but that he had encountered problems within the SDLP about accepting the invitation.]