

FROM: R P LEMON
PS/MICHAEL ANCRAM
24 June 1996

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cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B
PS/Sir John Wheeler (B, L&DFP) - B
PS/Michael Ancram (B, L&DENI) - B
PS/Baroness Denton (B, DOE&DANI) - B
PS/Mr Moss (B, DHSS&DOE) - B
PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Sir David Fell - B
Mr Legge - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Leach - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Wood (B&L) - B
Mr Beeton - B
Mr D Hill (B&L) - B
Mr Lavery - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Perry - B
Mr Stephens - B
Mr Currie - B
Ms Checksfield - B
Miss Harrison - B
Ms Mapstone - B
Mr Whysall - B
Mrs McNally - B
HMA Dublin - B
Mr Jeffrey (Cabinet Office)
Mr Lamont, RID FCO - B
Mr Westmacott, Washington via IPL - B
Mr Campbell-Bannerman - B

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

THOSE PRESENT: MICHAEL ANCRAM
MR H CASEY
MR M CURRAN
MR P HADDEN
MR J HASSEN

MICHAEL ANCRAM'S MEETING WITH LABOUR ON 24 JUNE 1996

As part of a series of bilaterals during the day Michael Ancram met a delegation from Labour in his room in Castle Buildings at 1620 hours. The meeting was short (less than 10 minutes) and was an opportunity to reassure Labour that despite not having met them on Thursday last they were not forgotten.

Detail

The Minister gave a general overview of where he saw things, adding that the key players had to make some effort to accommodate each other. He said if either SDLP or the Ulster Unionists walk away there would be no consensus. The parties could not duck the issues and it was important to keep working towards seeking an answer.

Mr Curran said that it must be frustrating for HMG, the problem was the Unionist family. (He and Mr Casey were critical of Mr McCartney, describing him as destructive.) He remarked that he had been talking with David Blakely recently who had said he would be supporting Labour. Blakely had noted that it had taken 11 years to draw up the American Constitution. Mr Casey laughing added that it had taken so long because there had been so many Ulster Protestants!

Mr Hadden asked if the Minister knew how long negotiations would shut down for in the summer. Michael Ancram said that that was a matter for the parties. Hadden asked if progress was being made. The Minister said that he felt some progress had been made on Thursday last but the same degree of progress had not been maintained today.

In conclusion, the Minister said he was grateful for the opportunity to provide Labour with an update, which Mr Curran seemed to appreciate.

Signed:

R P LEMON

PS/MICHAEL ANCRAM