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FROM: ANGELA DULLAGHAN  
PS/Michael Ancram  
10 June 1996

- cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B
- PS/Michael Ancram (B&L) - B
- PS/PUS (B&L) - B
- PS/Sir David Fell - B
- Mr Thomas (B&L) - B
- Mr Watkins - B
- Mr Leach (B&L) - B
- Mr Bell - B
- Mr Hill - B
- Mr Maccabe - B
- Mr Stephens - B
- Mr Lavery - B
- Mr Beeton - B

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

BI-LATERALS WITH THE PARTICIPATING PARTIES: MONDAY 10 JUNE 1996

Michael Ancram had a short meeting with delegations from the UDP, Labour Party, PUP and Alliance Party at Castle Buildings following the opening session of the talks on Monday 10 June.

2. The points raised by the parties are outlined below for your information.

UDP

- Gary McMichael explained that this party's position had been misrepresented by Robert McCartney. The UDP had agreed to the debate as it was entirely proper for the delegates to appoint the Chairman.
- Some Unionists were seeking to take the Chairman's power for themselves.
- There should be no plenary without a Chairman.
- There was a need to define what constituted consensus.
- The Chairman must be unbiased.

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- Trimble appeared frightened and unsure like he will be
- They were opposed to the setting up of a committee to choose Chairman or discuss rules.
- The Government needs to be more robust.
- They were concerned that commitments at Westminster/Europe would dictate the talks.
- They wanted the opportunity to supplement their delegates as they did not have the resources to cover all committees etc.

Labour

- The labour party supported Mitchell as chairman but understood Trimble's position on the role of the Chairman.

PUP

- What constitutes consensus needs to be defined.
- The alternative proposals on the agenda showed a harder position on decommissioning and they believed this to be an attempt to ambush the PUP and would send bad signals to Sinn Fein.
- The Secretary of State would need to adopt a stronger position tomorrow.
- Categorically refused to proceed to other business without a chairman.
- Again concerns about Westminster dictating the talks.

Alliance

- A very depressed Dr Alderdice who stated that these were the worst talks he had attended and that it was a fatal mistake to allow the DUP/UKUP to call the tune.

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- Trimble appeared frightened and looks like he will be dominated.
- The Government needs to be more robust.

Signed

ANGELA DULLAGHAN  
PS/Michael Ancram

- handling Sinn Fein protest (see covering note)
- Prime Minister arrives about 12.50; buffet lunch with Government Team
- 1 buffet lunch for Senator Mitchell and staff in their new offices
- Taoiseach arrives about 1.45pm, greeted by Prime Minister and brought to Secretary of State's office
- Prime Minister and Taoiseach greet Senator Mitchell and colleagues outside the Conference Room (for the cameras)
- 2pm: negotiations begin; Proposed seating plan attached
  - Loyalists may walk out at Taoiseach's presence
- statements by Prime Minister and Taoiseach, launching the Talks; conclude by inviting Senator Mitchell to take over the Chair; leave (with Ministers of State) for press conference
  - Unionists may challenge Independent Chairmanship or at least assert a right to be consulted on/agree to the arrangements (Secretary of State and Taoiseach to deal with the point as a point of order)