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**FROM: S J LEACH**  
**ASSOCIATE POLITICAL DIRECTOR (L)**  
**6 June 1996**

**DESK IMMEDIATE**

PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - B      cc PS/Michael Ancram (L&B) - B  
PS/Sir John Wheeler (L&B) - B  
PS/PUS (L&B) - B  
PS/Sir David Fell - B  
Mr Thomas - B  
Mr Legge - B  
Mr Steele - B  
Mr Ray - B  
Mr Bell - B  
Mr Watkins - B  
Mr Wood (L&B) - B  
Mr Stephens - B  
Mr Hill - B  
Mr Perry - B  
Mr Maccabe - B  
Mr Beeton - B  
Mr Lavery - B  
Miss Harrison - B  
Ms Checksfield - B  
Mrs Mapstone - B  
Mr Whysall - B  
Mr Budd, Cab Office (via IPL)  
Mr Lamont, RID - B  
HMA Dublin - B  
Mr Campbell Bannerman - B

**ALL-PARTY NEGOTIATIONS: LAUNCH OF DOCUMENTS**

Following agreement on paragraph 4 of the "Scenario" paper last night, the Liaison Group met this morning to finalise the range of papers which, in order to launch the negotiations, it is necessary to send to the prospective Chairmen and (once they have accepted the invitation to serve) to the participating parties and then to publish. We reached agreement with the Irish this morning on all these texts, which are attached:

- Scenario for the Opening Plenary Session;
- Procedural Guidelines for the conduct of substantive all-party negotiations;

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- Draft agenda for substantive all-party negotiations;
- Letters of invitation covering the above three documents to Senator Mitchell, General de Chastelain and Mr Holkeri;
- Letters to the nominating representatives of parties covering the three documents.

2. Mr Spring gave the Irish side the authority to endorse these papers on his behalf, and they have done this. We should therefore be grateful for the Secretary of State's approval to the attached package. Changes in the documents from earlier versions which the Secretary of State has seen are largely consequential or tidying-up; we are satisfied that no new issues of substance arise.

3. When the Secretary of State has indicated his final endorsement of the papers, these will be faxed to the three members of the chairmanship group under cover of the joint letters from the Secretary of State and Mr Spring which are attached. (We have been given Mr Spring's signature for this purpose.) If the prospective chairmen indicate their acceptance of the invitation rapidly today, it may be possible to write to the parties (using the relevant draft letter) and publish the papers at a joint press conference **this afternoon** (on current plans Mr Spring is due to leave London around 5.00 pm). If this proves over-ambitious, and the chairmen only signify their acceptance tomorrow, arrangements for the joint launch will be further considered. (If we do not get acceptance from the chairmen by close of play tomorrow, it will, as a fall-back, be necessary to send a shorter letter to the nominating representatives asking them and their teams simply to report to Castle Buildings for the start of negotiations at 2.00 pm on Monday.)

4. Two points of detail should be mentioned:

- a. in parallel with the approach to the prospective Chairmen, their Governments will be notified of what is happening by the relevant British and Irish Ambassadors and given a copy of the letter;

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b. a courteous valedictory letter to Sir Ninian Stephen will be submitted separately shortly.

5. As indicated above, it would be most helpful to have very early Ministerial endorsement of the attached papers.

(Signed SJL)

S J LEACH  
APD(L)  
OAB 6469

NORTHERN IRELAND FORUM

Your party having been successful in the recent elections is now entitled under the provisions of the Northern Ireland (Entry into Negotiations, Etc) Act 1986, to take its seats in the Northern Ireland Forum. I am writing to you now to set out the arrangements we propose to make for the Forum and to seek your views on them.

First Meeting

The Forum's first meeting is to be at a time determined by us. The Act specifies that this shall be after the commencement of negotiations but within four weeks from the date of the elections or as soon as possible after the expiry of that period. In determining this date I shall want to have regard to the possible duration of the plenary session of the negotiations, as well as the need not to delay unnecessarily the first meeting of the Forum. My present hope is to convene a first meeting of the Forum on 11 June.

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