

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Clare Checksfield
IPL
6 June 1996

DESK IMMEDIATE

cc PS/Michael Ancram (DENI, L&B) - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Leach - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Hill - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Dickinson, TAU - B
Mr Lamont, RID - F
Mr Pellew, NAD - F
Miss Duffield, Ottawa - F
Mr Westmacott - F

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (L&B) - B

CHAIRMANSHIPS: MESSAGES TO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT

I attach a draft letter for your signature to John Holmes, covering draft messages from the Prime Minister to Presidents Clinton and Ahtisaari and Prime Minister Chretien. I should be grateful if you could forward these as soon as possible - as we discussed, it would be useful to have the Secretary of State's approval, but we would not want to delay the messages long after any invitation or telephone conversation.

(SIGNED):

Clare Checksfield
Room 1/111
Tel: 210-6503

CONFIDENTIAL

CT/TPU/1700

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE

CONFIDENTIAL

CT/TPU/1700

CONFIDENTIAL

ANNEX A

DRAFT LETTER

FILE NUMBER

ADDRESSEE'S REFERENCE

TO: John Holmes Esq 10 Downing Street London SW1	ENCLOSURES:	COPIES TO BE SENT TO
--	-------------	----------------------

FOR SIGNATURE BY: PS/SECRETARY OF STATE
CHAIRMANSHIPS: MESSAGES TO US, CANADA, FINLAND

In parallel with the invitations issuing to George Mitchell, John de Chastelain and Harri Holkeri, I would be grateful if the Prime Minister could send the attached messages to President Clinton, President Ahtisaari and Prime Minister Chretien as soon as practicable. If timing permits, they could also be sent a copy of the scenario of the opening plenary paper.

All three Chairmen will be invited in their personal capacity. Harri Holkeri and John de Chastelain are not employed by their Governments, but in both cases letters are a necessary courtesy. The message to President Clinton asks him to release George Mitchell, as he did for the International Body.

CONFIDENTIAL

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

ANNEX A

DRAFT LETTER

FILE NUMBER

ADDRESSEE'S REFERENCE

TO: The Hon William J Clinton President of the United States	ENCLOSURES:	COPIES TO BE SENT TO
---	-------------	----------------------

FOR SIGNATURE BY: whole.

THE PRIME MINISTER

The negotiations which our two Governments and so many others have worked so hard to establish start in a few days' time.

These negotiations present the best opportunity for many years to reach a settlement which can secure widespread acceptance amongst the parties and the people of Northern Ireland. I remain grateful to you personally and to your administration for your staunch support. You allowed us to make use of George Mitchell's talents to chair the International Body on decommissioning at the turn of the year, and we would be grateful if you would allow him to help once again and chair the important plenary sessions of the negotiations. I wish we had been in a position to formally invite him sooner, but the overall balance of the posts matters hugely to all sides - we believe the package is now an excellent one.

CONFIDENTIAL

CT/TPU/1700

CONFIDENTIAL

ANNEX B

John Bruton and I have decided to invite all the group that worked so well under George's leadership on the International Body, and have invited John de Chastelain to chair the Strand Two negotiations, with Harri Holkeri acting as an alternate chairman in any of the independent chairmanship roles.

We have also agreed on the format of the opening plenary on Monday and [have published and I attach a copy of/will shortly be publishing] the details for the parties to see, as well as forwarding to them the draft agenda and procedural rules for the negotiations as a whole.

As I write, Sinn Fein continue to exclude themselves from this opportunity and have announced that they will boycott the Forum. They, and the IRA, are arguing that their election results alone give them the right to take part in Monday's negotiations. I deplore their stance and know that you do too. An unequivocal restoration of the 1994 IRA ceasefire is required.

We may have to continue our work against the backdrop of Sinn Fein media protests. This will not make negotiations any easier, but we remain committed to the success of those negotiations and I hope very much that George Mitchell will assist us.

I remain grateful for your continuing support. We believe that these negotiations present the best opportunity for many years to

CONFIDENTIAL

CT/TPU/1700

CONFIDENTIAL

ANNEX B

DRAFT LETTER

FILE NUMBER

ADDRESSEE'S REFERENCE

TO:
Rt Hon Jean Chretien PC
QC MP
Prime Minister of Canada

ENCLOSURES:

COPIES TO BE SENT TO

FOR SIGNATURE BY:

THE PRIME MINISTER

I am writing to tell you that we have now made a formal approach to General de Chastelain to invite him to chair Strand Two of the negotiations on the future of Northern Ireland which start on 10 June. We had been in touch with him informally, and are grateful for his patience and willingness to help again.

As you will know, the recent elections were well-supported, with a high turn-out, and all the key negotiators, including the small loyalist parties, were elected. This lays the groundwork for the opening plenary session on 10 June, which we have asked George Mitchell to chair.

I remain grateful for your continuing support. We believe that these negotiations present the best opportunity for many years to

CONFIDENTIAL

CT/TPU/1700

CONFIDENTIAL

reach a settlement, but are under no delusions that they will be easy. As I write, Sinn Fein continue to exclude themselves from the negotiations. I deplore their stance, but their absence from the negotiating table will not prevent us pressing ahead to achieve progress.

TO:
His Excellency,
The President of Finland
Mr. Martti Ahtisaari

ENCLOSURES:

COPIES TO BE SENT TO

FOR SIGNATURE BY:

THE PRIME MINISTER

The UK and Irish Governments have formally approached Mr. Harri Holkeri in order to invite him to assist with the negotiations on the future of Northern Ireland starting on 10 June.

We greatly valued his work on the International Body, and are inviting him alongside his former colleagues, former Senator George Mitchell and General de Chestelain from Canada. The group will play a role in chairing the various aspects of the negotiations which require independent chairmanship.

CT/TPU/1700

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

ANNEX C

DRAFT LETTER

FILE NUMBER

ADDRESSEE'S REFERENCE

TO:
His Excellency,
The President of Finland
Mr Martti Ahtisaari

ENCLOSURES:

COPIES TO BE SENT TO

FOR SIGNATURE BY:

THE PRIME MINISTER

The UK and Irish Governments have formally approached Mr Harri Holkeri in order to invite him to assist with the negotiations on the future of Northern Ireland starting on 10 June.

We greatly valued his work on the International Body, and are inviting him alongside his former colleagues, former Senator George Mitchell and General de Chastelain from Canada. The group will play a role in chairing the various aspects of the negotiations which require independent chairmanship.

CONFIDENTIAL

CT/TPU/1700

CONFIDENTIAL

We have invited Mr Holkeri to act as an alternate chairman to Senator Mitchell and General de Chastelain in any of the independent chairman roles.

The negotiations which start on Monday remain the best chance for establishing a stable future that Northern Ireland has had for some time. As I write there has still been no restoration of IRA ceasefire, which is necessary for Sinn Fein to take their place at the table. I regret this, but both we and the Irish Government remain deeply committed to make progress, and look forward to working with Harri Holkeri.

I remain grateful for your support.

PS/Burghess Dalton(L+B) -B
PS/Mr Moss(L+B) -B
PS/PUS(L+B) -B
PS/Sir David Hall -B
Mr Thomas -B
Mr Leach -B
Mr Watkins -B
Mr Wood(L+B) -B
Mr Kennedy -B
Mr Lavery -B
Mr Currie -B
Mr Harrison -B
Mr Whysall -B
Mr Cheekfield -B
Mr Mapstone -B
Campbell-Bannerman -B
Mr Cran, MP -B
Mr Elliotson, MP -B
Lady Olga Waitland, MP -B
Mr Lennox, MP -B
HMA Dublin -B
Ms Collins, Cabinet Office -B

PS/Michael Ancran(L+B) -B

PS/Secretary of State(L+B) -B

TALKS: OUTLINE HANDLING PLAN

I attach an abbreviated handling plan for the forthcoming Talks, intended to provide some general advice on how the substantive political negotiations might be taken forward once we have got past the crucial opening session.

CONFIDENTIAL

CT/TPU/1700

CONFIDENTIAL

CPL-MAIN/7955

- 1 -