

08.

POLITICAL AFFAIR  
DIVISION  
20 JUN 1996  
NO EFFECT

From: D J Watkins  
D/Cent Sec

Date: 20 June 1996

cc PS/Michael Ancram (DENI, B&L) - B  
PS/PUS (B&L) - B  
PS/Sir David Fell - B  
Mr Thomas - B  
Mr Bell - B  
Mr Blackwell - B  
Mr Leach - B  
Mr Wood (B&L) - B  
Mr Beeton - B  
Mrs Brown - B  
Mr Carson - B  
Mr Hill - B  
Mr Lavery - B  
Mr Maccabe - B  
Mr Stephens - B  
Dr Smyth - B  
Mr Clayton, HOLAB - B  
Mr McCartney, DFP Sols - B  
Mr Campbell-Bannerman - B

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

**FORUM: NOTIFICATION OF NON-MEETING DAYS**

1. This is to ask the Secretary of State to 'certify out' Monday-Wednesday of next week as days on which it would not be appropriate for the Forum to meet. An instrument for this purpose is attached for signature.

**Background**

2. On the basis of my submission of 13 June, the Secretary of State certified-out Monday-Wednesday of this week in order to prevent any clash between the negotiations and the Forum. The Forum is scheduled to meet tomorrow, 21 June at 11.00am.

3. Mr Hill has advised that the pre-Plenary negotiations will reconvene on Monday, 24 June and are expected to continue until Wednesday. In view of the fact that most of the key participants in the negotiations are also likely to be involved in the Forum, it would be desirable to keep the beginning of next week clear to allow the negotiations to take place unhindered.



## Power to issue notification

4. The Secretary of State's power to prevent the Forum meeting is contained in paragraph 2(4) of Schedule 2 to the Northern Ireland (Entry to Negotiations, etc) Act 1996, which provides as follows:

"(4) ... the forum shall not meet at any time notified by the Secretary of State to the chairman as being a time when, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, it would not be appropriate for the forum to meet because negotiations within section 2 are intended to take place; but the Secretary of State shall not prevent the holding of a meeting for more than four consecutive weeks."

## Recommendation

5. In view of the current state of the pre-Plenary negotiations and the need to allow the principal negotiators to set aside the beginning of next week for this work, it is recommended that the Secretary of State should notify the Forum chairman that meetings ought not to be held on Monday-Wednesday, 24-26 June.

6. If the Secretary of State is content to sign the attached notification, a copy should be faxed to the Forum administrator, Mr Nigel Carson (at 01232-522119) by 10.00am tomorrow morning in order that he can pass it to Mr Gorman.

[Signed DJW]

One of Her Majesty's Principal  
Secretaries of State

Date:

D J WATKINS

LM/DLL/386



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FROM: WILLIAM STEVENSON  
Talks Secretariat  
10 June 1996

POLITICAL AFFAIR  
DIVISION  
21 JUN 1996

cc: PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - B  
PS/Sir John Wheeler (C, SEDPP) - B  
PS/Michael Aherne (L, B&ANI) - B  
PS/Malcolm Hoar (L, O&HMS) - B  
PS/Baroness Danton (L, B&ANI) - B  
PS/TUS (L&B) - B  
PS/Sir David Fell - B

TO: CHAIRMAN OF THE FORUM

In pursuance of paragraph 2(4) of Schedule 2 to the Northern Ireland (Entry to Negotiations, etc) Act 1996, which is set out below, I hereby notify you that it would not be appropriate, in my opinion, for the forum to meet on Monday 24 June, Tuesday 25 June and Wednesday 26 June 1996 because negotiations within section 2 of that Act are intended to take place then.

"(4) But the forum shall not meet at any time notified by the Secretary of State to the chairman as being a time when, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, it would not be appropriate for the forum to meet because negotiations within section 2 are intended to take place; but the Secretary of State shall not prevent the holding of a meeting for more than four consecutive weeks."

Mr Westmacott (via RID) - B  
Mr Campbell-Bannerman - B  
Mrs McNally (L&B) - B

MINISTER OF STATE'S MEETING WITH THE IRISH DELEGATION - 20 JUNE 1996

#### SUMMARY

Irish now on board for the notion of developing the rules of procedure into a comprehensive free standing text and agreed to consider a draft. Sought reassurance that HMG would remain totally committed to the Ground Rules.

One of Her Majesty's Principal  
Secretaries of State

The Minister welcomed Mr O Ruighinn, Mr Cooney, Mr Donoghue and Mr Kavanagh to the meeting which began at 12.05 pm. Mr Leach and Mr Hill also attended.

Date:

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