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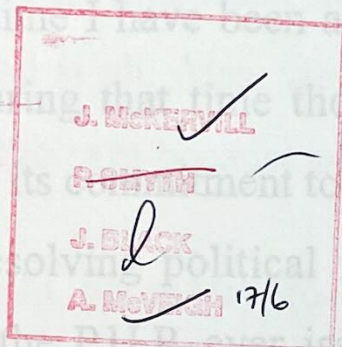
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Date: 12 June, 1996

**P.A.B.**

**13 JUN 1996**



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

C 13/6

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

**TALKS: PLENARY: 12 JUNE: PUP STATEMENT**

I attach the statement read out by Mr Smyth on behalf of the PUP during the plenary just after midnight (paragraph 7 of the internal record).

*A. J. Whysall*

**A J Whysall**

## Commitment to Mitchell Principles

*a) to democratic and exclusively peaceful means of resolving political issues.*

The P.U.P. has been in existence for almost 20 years and during that time I have been a councillor in Belfast City Council. During that time the P.U.P. has demonstrated quite clearly its commitment to a peaceful and democratic means of resolving political issues. At no stage in its history has the P.U.P. ever issued statements to incite anyone to resolve political differences other than by exclusively peaceful and democratic methods.

*b) to the total disarmament of all paramilitary organizations.*

The Progressive Unionist Party is on public record as being absolutely committed to the total disarmament of all illegal war materials. I refer to paragraph 6 of the submission from the Progressive Unionist Party to the government at our first meeting of exploratory talks on



December 15th 1994 at Parliament Buildings.

I quote, "The issue of illegal arms in our society cannot and will not be dismissed lightly. Ideally we wish that none existed at all. Alas, we are all too well aware that this is not the case because of the distrust which exists.

The formula necessary to create disarmament will indeed be hard to find. We are committed to search for that formula. As with all who address the contentious issues which so beset us, we are bound by the realms of possibility. Hence, we fear that the resolution of this issue is some way down the road." Unquote

*c) to agree that such disarmament must be verifiable to the satisfaction of an independent commission.*

The Progressive Unionist Party has been involved in exploratory talks with HMG on the modalities of the decommissioning of illegal weapons which included

verification and validation and also the use of independent supervision. We are prepared to continue with that dialogue in order to achieve a formula that will remove all illegal war materials from our society including the acceptance of independent verification. In March 1995, nine months before the Mitchell commission was even heard of, the PUP during exploratory talks with HMG proposed that in order to verify decommissioning an international commission be formed for that purpose.

*d) to renounce for themselves, and to oppose any effort by others, to use force, or threaten to use force, to influence the course or the outcome of all-party negotiations.*

*e) to agree to abide by the terms of any agreement reached in all-party negotiations and to resort to democratic and exclusively peaceful methods in trying*



*to alter any aspect of that outcome with which they may disagree; and,*

The Progressive Unionist Party wishes to stress that it does not have a military capacity and unlike Sinn Fein we do not see the democratic process as an either/or process. We are not entering into dialogue with any hidden threat of a possible return to violence if our political philosophy is rejected. Irrespective of the final outcome of the peace process the Progressive Unionist Part is wholly committed to democratic politics.

*f) to urge that "punishment" killings and beatings stop and to take effective steps to prevent such actions.*

The Progressive Unionist Party has consistently and vociferously opposed so called punishment "killings and beatings". On numerous occasions we have acted as intermediaries and prevented punishment attacks. We have also been and are consistently involved in liason

with the RUC and the local communities in combating crime.

Furthermore the PUP throughout this peace process has used its influence positively, constructively and imaginatively.

In a plenary meeting they agreed the approach to resolving procedural difficulties set out in the attached paper.

At the invitation of the two Governments, Senator Mitchell assumed the chair of the opening plenary session. General de Chastelain and Mr Holkeri were appointed as chairman of Strand 2 and the Business Committee and alternate chairman respectively.

The British and Irish Governments, the Alliance Party, Labour, the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition, the Progressive Unionist Party, the Social Democratic and Labour Party, the Ulster Democratic Party and the Ulster Unionist Party all confirmed their total and absolute commitment specifically to the principles of democracy and non-violence as set out in paragraph 20 of the report of the International Body.

The participants will meet again this morning to confer on the issues mentioned in paragraph 5 of the attached paper.