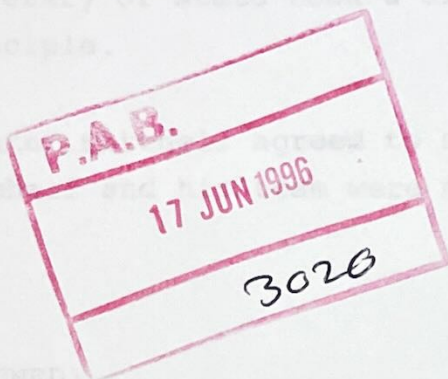


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B18

From: PS/Secretary of State (B)
17 June 1996



cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B
PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B
PS/Michael Ancram (B&L) - B
PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Sir David Fell - B
Mr Legge - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Brooke - B
Mr Leach - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Wood (B&L) - B
Mr Hill - B
Mr Beeton - B
Mrs Brown - B
Mr Cornick - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Stephens - B
Ms Checksfield - B
Miss Harrison - B
Mr N Carson - B
Mr D Lavery - B
Mr Lamont, RID - B
HMA Dublin - B
Mr Cran - B
Mr Elletson - B
Lady Olga Maitland - B
Mr Campbell-Bannerman - B

Handwritten notes:
1. Mr Mitchell
2. Dr Smith
L176

**NOTE OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN SECRETARY OF STATE AND
SENATOR GEORGE MITCHELL ON SUNDAY 16 JUNE 1996**

The notes below are based on the Secretary of State's notes of the conversation.

The Secretary of State spoke to Senator Mitchell on the telephone at 0940 hours on Sunday. Senator Mitchell was depressed by the Manchester bombing and asked the Secretary of State if he thought the IRA would announce a ceasefire "tomorrow".

The Secretary of State said it was a possibility we had thought of in advance. HMG had always said it would deal with such an event in light of all circumstances. But the reality was HMG would have to say get lost. However we could intellectualise if the reality was that it was more than could be asked: we would be seen as very naive to still let them in.

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In response to the Secretary of State's question as to what he thought, Mitchell agreed. He said, however, that it was important not to respond by implying they would be kept out for good. The Secretary of State warmly agreed - and said that he thought Monday would be taken up with hours of 'How awful this is'. The Secretary of State took a different view: this was nothing new in principle.

Senator Mitchell agreed to meet at 0930. Mitchell sounded low. Mitchell and his team were meeting Sunday afternoon.

(SIGNED)

ROBERT CRAWFORD

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