SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND

David Trimble Esq MP
3 Glengall Street
BELFAST
BT12 5AE   4   June 1996

Under the terms of section 2 of the Northern Ireland (Entry
to Negotiations, etc) Act 1996 I am writing to you as the
nominating representative of a party which has been
successful in the elections, to invite you to nominate a
team to participate in the negotiations beginning next
Monday.

The negotiating team must under the Act be composed of
delegates returned at the elections. There is no limit to
the number of delegates who may be included. The Ground
Rules for the negotiations agreed by the two governments
would however generally limit a party's team for any one
meeting to three (with a further three people, who need not
be elected, in support if they wish).

We need to make arrangements with all speed. It would be
helpful if your nomination could be passed to me as quickly
as possible, and in any event no later than 6 June, via the
head of our Talks Administration Unit, Mr Peter Dickinson.
His telephone number is 01232 522128 and his fax number
01232 522119.

It would be convenient also if Mr Dickinson could be notified as soon as possible after you receive this letter of the name of a person with whom he should be in contact (a colleague, or indeed yourself if you wish) over initial administrative arrangements for the negotiations.

I am enclosing for your information a copy of a response I propose to give tomorrow to a parliamentary question about nominations to the negotiations.

I also enclose a note about the allowances which the two Governments intend to pay to delegates, in respect of the meetings in the relevant strands.

We shall be in touch further about arrangements for the negotiations.

I believe we are embarking on a process of dialogue with great potential to improve the lives and prospects of the people of Northern Ireland, and of everyone in these two islands. I look forward very much to your contribution.

Yours sincerely,