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SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR  
NORTHERN IRELAND

David Trimble Esq MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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13 June 1997

*Dear David,*

I much enjoyed our dinner on Tuesday and I was pleased that we were able to have such a constructive exchange about our hopes for resolving the issue of decommissioning within the next few weeks. I note your concern to achieve this, if at all possible, by the end of June and we are working hard to maintain the necessary momentum.

In working towards a set of proposals which I hope will commend themselves to the talks participants, I would be very glad to have your reactions to the enclosed aide memoire which sets out our current thinking on the key elements of any such proposals. Most of these were mentioned on Tuesday evening but I understand your desire to see them in writing. - -

The intention would be to engineer matters in the talks so that proposals on these lines are presented as "possible conclusions" to the consideration of item 2 of the agenda, and on the basis that the three strands and the "mechanisms" on decommissioning (item 4 of the agenda) would be formally launched before any summer break in the talks and commence

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substantive work in September. We would of course want to encourage preparatory work during that interval.

Perhaps we could have a chat over the weekend or on Monday about your reactions to the points on the enclosed aide memoire so that they can be taken fully into account as we move towards a conclusion on this issue.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Marjorie'.

MARJORIE MOWLAM

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sds/MM/Trimble