

CONFIDENTIAL

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Teller file

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Meeting with Senator Mitchell

21st July, 1996

1. I had an informal meeting with Senator Mitchell for about three-quarters of an hour on 21st July. This occurred prior to a meeting which Sir Patrick Mayhew had, at his request, with the three Chairmen.
2. I up-dated Senator Mitchell on developments from the Anglo-Irish Conference onwards. I stressed for him the gravity of the crisis of political confidence in the nationalist community. I said we had stressed to the British Government that the minimum that was needed to restore the primacy of politics was to "fast forward" the procedural issues and to go into recess with three strands and a sub-committee on decommissioning lined up for substantive negotiations on resumption in September. I said we understood the British Government accepted this in principle, and had been in contact with David Trimble to impress the need for movement on him.
3. Senator Mitchell queried whether this would involve agreement on the substantive agenda as well as other matters. I said that was both Governments' view. I agreed with the Senator that it was ambitious.

Sean Ó hUiginn

29 July 1996