

**SECURE FAX**

**NO: 785**

**1 August 1996**

**NO. OF PAGES: 2**

PST; PSS; Ministers Owen,  
de Rossa & Taylor; Attorney  
General; Minister of State  
Coveney; Messrs. Teahon,  
Donlon & Dalton; Ambs.  
London and Washington; Joint  
Secretary; Counsellors A-I.

**TO: HQ**

**FOR: Second Secretary O hUiginn**

**FROM: Belfast**

**FROM: Joint Secretary**

**Subj: Staffing of Irish Government delegation office during recess**

1. You will have seen the note agreed between both Governments which is being circulated to all delegations at Castle Buildings today (a copy of which was forwarded to us by Patricia Williams yesterday).
2. To fulfil the commitment given in para 5 about the availability of representatives of the two Governments, our delegation office will be manned by staff of the Secretariat between the agreed hours (9-5pm) on each of the days in question (5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27 August and 2-3 September). A roster is being drawn up under Mr Dowling's guidance which will involve, at different times, Mr Dowling, Mr Nolan, Mr Tierney and Mr O'Shea.
3. I understand that the British Government office is likely to be manned for some of the time by Alan Whysall of the Talks Unit.
4. Bronagh Hinds, with whom I had a conversation yesterday, expects that the two Loyalist parties, her own NIWC and "one or two" of the Unionist parties will be present at Castle Buildings during August, though on a somewhat spasmodic basis. The SDLP and Alliance have told her that they will not be and she suspects that Labour will also be absent.
5. The NIWC hope to use the Monday/Tuesday period of each week to do a number of things. First, they want to consolidate their relations with the two Loyalist parties. Second, they want to try to "reach out" to the Unionist parties, with whom relations have been fairly strained from the outset of these talks. Third, they want to

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explore the ideas of other parties generally both on the Plenary agenda and on the comprehensive agenda. The NIWC have put in a proposal in the former regard (which closely follows our own) and have agreed that it may be circulated at this stage. As the other parties who have submitted views are either unwilling to have these circulated at this stage or will not be present at Castle Buildings during August, Ms Hinds does not expect particular enlightenment on this subject during the recess.

6. Her basic concern, and that of the Loyalist parties, is to demonstrate ongoing commitment to the process, even if nothing concrete can be achieved in these bilaterals. She frankly admitted to another (and possibly superior) motivation - the NIWC, which has yet to find an office in Belfast, has literally "nowhere else to go" during August.

5 August  
12 August  
15 August  
26 August  
2 September

Block B Castle Buildings will be available between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm for use by the parties for work connected with the negotiations. Staffing will however be restricted and some facilities - eg catering - will be available only on a limited basis.

3. In recognition of the Chairman's announcement that the parties will be able to hold informal bilateral consultations on Mondays and Tuesdays in August and/or engage in essential preparatory work requiring access to Castle Buildings and contacts with other participants, in respect of attendance at Castle Buildings on Monday and Tuesday of each week (Tuesday and Wednesday in the week beginning 24 August) funding will be provided as follows:

For each participating party, a half day Delegates' loss of earnings allowance of £50 will be available for each of the five weeks (ie a maximum of £250 loss of earnings allowance may be claimed per party per week).

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02/2260/TALES



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*To be issued 5/8*TO HEADS OF DELEGATIONSBLOCK B CASTLE BUILDINGS - ARRANGEMENTS FOR AUGUST 1996

At the meeting on Thursday 4 July, the Chairman announced that Castle Buildings would remain open on Mondays and Tuesdays during August for the purpose of informal bilateral discussions. This note sets out the arrangements envisaged for Castle Buildings during the period.

2. On weekdays (excluding bank holidays) in the weeks commencing:

5 August

12 August

19 August

26 August

2 September

Block B Castle Buildings will be available between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm for use by the parties for work connected with the negotiations. Staffing will however be restricted and some facilities - eg catering - will be available only on a limited basis.

3. In recognition of the Chairman's announcement that the parties will be able to hold informal bilateral consultations on Mondays and Tuesdays in August and/or engage in essential preparatory work requiring access to Castle Buildings and contacts with other participants, in respect of attendance at Castle Buildings on Monday and Tuesday of each week (Tuesday and Wednesday in the week beginning 26 August) funding will be provided as follows:

For each participating party, 6 half day delegates' loss of earnings allowances of £50 will be available for each of the five weeks (ie a maximum of £300 loss of earnings allowance may be claimed per party per week).

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## RESTRICTED - POLICY

Parties will also be entitled to a party support allowance of £100 for each week in which they engage in such informal consultations.

A maximum of six delegates per week and up to a maximum of 3 support staff per day attending Castle Buildings on Monday and Tuesdays under the above arrangements during each of the 5 weeks indicated will be entitled to claim travel and subsistence.

4. Delegation suites etc will also be available for use by parties from Wednesdays to Fridays for use for work connected with the negotiations but no allowances or expenses will be payable in respect of attendance at Castle Buildings on those days.

5. Representatives of the Governments will be contactable on Mondays and Tuesdays for the purpose of exchanging information and clarifying issues which parties may wish to raise.

August 1996

PETER DICKINSON  
Talks Administrator  
Talks Administration Unit

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JA/2260/TALKS