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FROM: QUENTIN THOMAS  
POLITICAL DIRECTOR (L)  
19 July 1996  
QT/MR/68660

PUS/913  
10 JUL 1996  
LONDON

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE(L&B)

cc PS/Michael Ancram(L&B)  
PS/PS(L&B)  
PS/Sir David Fell  
Mr Leach(L&B)  
Mr Bell  
Mr Watkins  
Mr DJR Hill  
Mr Maccabe  
Mr Stephens  
Mr Campbell Bannerman  
HMA Dublin  
Ms Collins Cabinet Office

POINTS TO MAKE TO MR TRIMBLE

As a result of the IGC, we envisage further contact with Mr Trimble. The Secretary of State might initially speak to Mr Trimble by phone and perhaps meet him at the weekend. (He may also need to deploy the Prime Minister, if only to preclude any appeal to him.)

2. Mr Stephens' submission of 17 July suggested some points to make. I believe these are still valid. But they need to be supplemented as a result of the agreement with the Irish side at the IGC to press for much more progress before the summer break.

3. I attach some points to make which pick up where Mr Stephens leaves off.

4. The Secretary of State (or Michael Ancram) should also aim to speak to Senator Mitchell over the weekend. (He will be in London, but can be contacted via Martha Pope at the Europa.) I understand from Mr Hill that when Senator Mitchell left Castle Buildings last night he was still minded to have a "venting" session on Monday, whether at 12 noon or at 2pm, but had not committed himself to it until he hears further from the two Governments. We are of course due to meet Senator Mitchell, with the Irish side, at 11am on Monday (22 July) morning. But Senator Mitchell believes he must indicate to the parties, before Monday, how that day will be used.

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5. Mr Hill also reports that he had a further discussion this morning with Martha Pope. She reports Senator Mitchell as believing that the two Governments will seek to broker with the UUP and the SDLP over the weekend the remaining points on the Agenda and the Rules of Procedure. Neither Mr Hill nor I know why he has that misunderstanding. Martha Pope says that there are really only about two points on the Rules of Procedure between the UUP and the SDLP and she has clearly been urging over the last week that Senator Mitchell should be pro-active in proposing compromise language. When Ministers speak to Senator Mitchell they might further encourage him in that. It is paradoxical that while we feared that Senator Mitchell might be too much of the fixer he has in practice shown a reluctance to make deals, constantly turning to the two Governments when the going gets tough. We could ourselves propose compromise language (but we have of course already tabled ours). But there is the awkwardness that it is Senator Mitchell, not us, who has conducted the bilaterals with the parties in the last few days. I believe he should be urged to be a little pro-active.

6. Failing that, another way of proceeding would be for the two Governments to meet the SDLP and the UUP jointly in an attempt to hammer out the core deal. As it seems to me this now has three elements:

- (i) The timeframe for expedited progress through the Opening Plenary. As I understand it the SDLP are making this a pre-condition to their agreement on the other two items namely,
- (ii) The Agenda for the Opening Plenary and,
- (iii) Rules of Procedure.

7. These need to be brokered as a package, whether by Senator Mitchell or by the two Governments.

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POINTS TO MAKE

8. This suggests to me that Senator Mitchell might be invited to indicate that Monday would be used in the first instance for further bilateral exchanges with any round table session held at least until the afternoon. We may still want to persuade him not to have a venting session which perhaps only Dr Paisley really wants. as that we previously envisaged before the summer break.

9. This means:

[SIGNED]

- having a venting session, if the Chairman feels he must concede this to Dr Paisley
- agreeing Rules of Procedure and the Agenda for the Opening

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PD(L)

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- starting the plenary, appointing a Business Committee and taking opening statements
- dealing with Item 5 (consideration of the International Body's proposals on decommissioning)
- if possible, agreeing the comprehensive agenda.

3. This would mean that on our return, after the summer break, we would clearly be into the substance on each of the three strands.

4. If necessary, we believe we may have to extend the process beyond the 29 July perhaps into the first week of August.

5. On decommissioning we believe, as you know, that the outcome of the Opening Plenary should be:

- participants' commitment to work constructively to implement all aspects of the Report of the International Body



POINTS TO MAKE

1. Even more progress needed before the summer break. We now believe that to restore confidence, to retain Senator Mitchell and to keep the SDLP in the process we need to make more progress than we previously envisaged before the summer break.
2. This means:
  - having a venting session, if the Chairman feels he must concede this to Dr Paisley
  - agreeing Rules of Procedure and the Agenda for the Opening Plenary
  - starting the plenary, appointing a Business Committee and taking opening statements
  - dealing with Item 5 (consideration of the International Body's proposals on decommissioning)
  - if possible, agreeing the comprehensive agenda.
3. This would mean that on our return, after the summer break, we would clearly be into the substance on each of the three strands.
4. If necessary, we believe we may have to extend the process beyond the 29 July perhaps into the first week of August.
5. On decommissioning we believe, as you know, that the outcome of the Opening Plenary should be:
  - participants' commitment to work constructively to implement all aspects of the Report of the International Body

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- the establishment of a committee of plenary to secure agreement on modalities, advise on the legislative and practical implications and secure agreement on other aspects necessary for implementation. (Terms of Reference were attached to our Opening Scenario Paper of 6 June).

6. The SDLP now feel under considerable pressure, because of the seismic shock of last week's events, to withdrawn from the process. They have already left the Forum. We must demonstrate purposive engagement or they will conclude that they merely cede ground to Sinn Fein by further involvement in the Talks. If that happens the Talks, and of course the Forum, will be brought to an end.

7. Are you ready to join in an effort to make speedy progress? You had said that this could not happen before the 12th, but that is of course now behind us.

Mr Lindsay  
Mr Macoske  
Mr Perry  
Mr Stephens  
Ms Checkfield  
Ms Mapstone  
Mr Whyte (L&B)  
Ms Harrison (L&B)  
Ms Collins, Cab Off (via T&A)  
Mr O'Mahony, T&A  
Mr Lamont, RID  
HMA Dublin  
Mr Westmacott (via RID)  
Mr Campbell-Bannerman  
Mrs McRally (L&B)

File Note

TALKS: WEDNESDAY 17 JULY 1996

Summary

1. A relatively quiet day. A constructive meeting with an apparently chastened Trimble, who described the revised agenda as helpful. He would consult colleagues on the agenda and report to Ministers. The British team impressed on Trimble the need to make early and real progress in agreeing Rules of Procedure and the agenda with the SDLP, through Mitchell's mediation. Trimble suggested that differences between UUP and SDLP on agenda