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2. P. Tallis

From: Mrs D E McNally
Political Development Team
30 July 1996

cc: PS/Secretary of State (B&L) -B
PS/Sir John Wheeler (B,L&DFP) -B
PS/Michael Ancram (B, L&DENI) -B
PS/Malcolm Moss (B, DHSS&DOE) -B
PS/Baroness Denton(B,DED&DANI) -B
PS/PUS (B&L) -B
PS/Sir David Fell -B
Mr Thomas (B&L) -B
Mr Bell -B
Mr Legge -B
Mr Leach (B&L) -B
Mr Steele -B
Mr Watkins -B
Mr Wood (B&L) -B
Mr Beeton -B
Mr Currie -B
Mr Hill (B&L) -B
Mr Lavery -B
Mr Maccabe -B
Mr Perry -B
Mr Stephens -B
Ms Checksfield -B
Miss Harrison (B&L) -B
Ms Mapstone -B
Mr Whysall (B&L) -B
Ms Collins, Cab Off (via IPL) -B
Mr Dickinson, TAU -B
Mr Lamont, RID FCO -B
HMA Dublin -B
Mr Westmacott (via RID) -B
Mr Campbell-Bannerman -B

PUS/1056
NIO LONDON

FILE NOTE

I attach the text of the statement issued by the Independent Chairmen yesterday recording the adoption of the Rules of Procedure, the establishment of the Business Committee and the adjournment of the multi-party talks until 9 September 1996. In the meantime the parties have been invited to engage in informal bilateral meetings during August in preparation for the resumption of the talks process in the Autumn.

(signed)

MRS D E McNALLY
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM
CB x22282

STATEMENT BY SENATOR GEORGE J MITCHELL
GENERAL JOHN de CHASTELAIN, AND
PRIME MINISTER HARRI HOLKERI

29 July 1996

The Opening Plenary Session of the multi-party negotiations resumed today at Castle Buildings, Belfast.

After discussion, participants agreed and adopted the rules of procedure for the conduct of the negotiations.

The participants also agreed to the establishment of the Business Committee.

We believe this represents significant progress.

Following the morning meeting of the Plenary, constructive talks on the agenda for the remainder of Opening Plenary session took place. We have found common ground and have identified some differences. In the view of the Chairmen, it is not possible to reach agreement on this issue at this time. We believe, therefore, that all participants would benefit from a period for reflection.

Consequently, the Opening Plenary stands adjourned until September 9, 1996. During the interim, we suggest that all participants reflect on the agenda and return determined to resolve it quickly at the outset.

We remain firm in our view that these talks are the best means of securing a broadly acceptable political solution and lasting peace in Northern Ireland. We look forward to continuing our work with the participants to move toward that goal.

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