

C O N F I D E N T I A L

FROM: MISS G HARRISON
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM
22 JULY 1996

cc PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Sir David Fell - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Legge - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr Beeton - B
Mr Currie - B
Mr Hill (B&L) - B
Mr Lavery - B
Mr Lindsay - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Perry - B
Mr Stephens - B
Ms Checksfield - B
Ms Mapstone - B
Mr Whysall (L&B) - B
HMA Dublin - B
Mr Campbell-Bannerman - B
Mrs McNally - B

PS/Michael Ancram (B&L) - B

PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B

RESUMED OPENING PLENARY: ADDRESSING DECOMMISSIONING

The purpose of this submission is to seek Minister's approval of the attached draft statement on decommissioning which might be made by all the talks participants, with a view to passing to the Irish.

2. The Joint Paper by the British and Irish Governments which was circulated to delegations at 9.00 am this morning proposed an agenda for a resumed opening plenary which suggests, at item 4 (b), that all the participants make a commitment to work constructively to implement all aspects of the Report of the International Body.

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INTERNATIONAL BODY'S PROPOSALS ON DECOMMISSIONING

3. I attach a draft statement which might be made jointly by all the participants during item 4 (b). If Ministers are content, agreement is sought to pass this to the Irish side for their consideration.

(Signed)

G Harrison (Miss)
Political Development Team
CB x 22281
22 July 1996

This statement is made by the following:

The British and Irish Governments, the Alliance Party, Labour, the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition, the Progressive Unionist Party, the Social Democratic and Labour Party, the Ulster Democratic Party, the Democratic Unionist Party, the Ulster Unionist Party and the UK Unionist Party.

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INTERNATIONAL BODY'S PROPOSALS ON DECOMMISSIONING

[Joint Statement by the participants]

The participants in the multi-party negotiations aimed at securing a comprehensive negotiated settlement have discussed the International Body's proposals on decommissioning including the approach referred to in paragraphs 34 and 35 in which some decommissioning would take place during the negotiations, rather than before or after. They confirm their commitment to work constructively and in good faith to implement all aspects of the Report of the International Body, in the context of the process as a whole, building trust and confidence as progress is made on the issues.

This statement is made by the following:

The British and Irish Governments, the Alliance Party, Labour, the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition, the Progressive Unionist Party, the Social Democratic and Labour Party, the Ulster Democratic Party, the Democratic Unionist Party, the Ulster Unionist Party and the UK Unionist Party.

PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - B

RESOLVING DECOMMISSIONING BEFORE THE ELECTION

I attach an analytical paper which, essentially, concludes that

- the prospects for securing an agreement on decommissioning before the talks adjourn for the election period look somewhat better than they did at the beginning of the week;
- conversely, alternative options for keeping the talks going or demonstrating constructive ongoing political activity in some other way seem less likely to open up;

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