

From: John McKervill
 Political Affairs Division
 8 July 1996

DESK IMMEDIATE

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B
 PS/Michael Ancram (B&L) - B
 PS/PUS (B&L) - B
 PS/Sir David Fell - B
 Mr Thomas (B&L) - B
 Mr Leach (B&L) - B
 Mr Bell - B
 Mr Wood (B&L) - B
 Mr Stephens - B
 Mr Beeton - B
 Mr Lavery - B
 Miss Harrison (B&L) - B
 Mr Campbell-Bannerman - B
 Mr Clayton, HOLAB - B
 Mr Lamont, RID - B
 HMA Dublin - B
 Mr Dickinson - B

Mr Hill - B

TALKS: FRATERNAL FALLING-OUT

Further to my earlier minute of today, Malachi Curran telephoned me to say that the Labour Co-ordinating Committee had issued a press release today announcing the establishment of a "Labour Federation" with the aim of rebuilding Labour politics in Northern Ireland. The release stated that the initiative has been spearheaded by the Labour Co-ordinating Committee, "the organisation behind the recent Labour election campaign.

2. Mr Curran refutes this last claim saying that Labour's campaign was organised by a number of different separate groupings. He reads this latest announcement as Mark Langhammer et al moving away from the Labour group at the talks.

3. In the meantime he is compiling for the Secretary of State a briefing paper which details the history of the formation of Labour so that the Secretary of State's determination of Mark Langhammer's position as "nominating representative" can be fully informed. He

merely wanted me to pass on to the Secretary of State the information that this package was being compiled. He also informed me that there will be a meeting of the Labour Coalition Steering Committee tomorrow evening to try to remove Langhammer from the position of 'nominating representative'.

(Signed)

J MCKERVILL
SH Ext 27088

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Mr Baston - B
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Mr Lamont, RID - B
EMA Dublin - B
Mr Dickinson - B

TALKS: FRATERNAL FALLING-OUT

As you know, this morning, I went down to Castle Buildings to assist Paul Lennox of the Talks Administration Unit, who had earlier taken a call from Malachi Curran and Hugh Casey who said they were on their way to Castle Buildings to "evict", with the help of the Admin Unit, three people who had "occupied" the labour delegation room. (The three people concerned were Labour advisors officially nominated by Mark Langhammer, Labour's nominating representative).

2. When I arrived at Castle Buildings, accompanied by Allen McVeigh and Mr Lennox, I met Messrs Curran, Casey and James Masson (Labour Talks Co-ordinator) and asked first whether the matter of the nominating representative had been resolved over the weekend as foreshadowed in Malachi Curran's letter of 5 July. They said that it had not, and handed over a further letter dated 6 July, to the Secretary of State (faxed separately). That letter stated that in writing to the Secretary of State, Mr Langhammer had acted without any discussion with Curran, or any reference to or authority from