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Date: 4 July, 1996

POLITICAL AFFAIR
DIVISION
04 JUL 1996
N.I.O. BELFAST

cc PS/Secretary of State(L+B) -B
PS/Sir John Wheeler(L,B+) -B
PS/Michael Ancram(L,B+) -B
PS/Malcolm Moss(L+B) -B
PS/Baroness Denton(L+B) -B
PS/PUS(L+B) -B
PS/Sir David Fell -B
Mr Thomas -B
Mr Bell -B
Mr Legge -B
Mr Leach(L+B) -B
Mr Steele -B
Mr Watkins -B
Mr Wood(L+B) -B
Mr Beeton -B
Mr Currie -B
Mr Hill -B
Mr Lavery -B
Mr Maccabe -B
Mr Perry -B
Mr Stephens -B
Ms Checksfield -B
Miss Harrison(L+B) -B
Ms Mapstone -B
Mr Whysall(L+B) -B
Ms Collins, Cab Off (via IPL) -B
Mr O'Mahony, TAU -B
Mr Lamont, RID -B
HMA Dublin -B
Mr Westmacott, (via RID) -B
Mr Campbell-Bannerman -B
Mrs McNally(L+B) -B

J. McKENNA
P. SMYTH
J. CLARK
A. McVEIGH

File Note

TALKS PROGRESS REPORT, 3 JULY AFTERNOON/4 JULY MORNING

Discussion of HMG's amendments to rule 1 (status of Ground Rules) including general expressions of welcome by UUP, UKUP and DUP; but then further cavilling over detail.

2. A general suggestion of a need for bilateral contacts between parties to establish 'further trust' taken up; session adjourned.

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3. DUP (McCrea - Paisley and Robinson away) and UKUP asked for bilateral with Michael Ancram. McCartney made most of the running, seeking to perpetuate difficulties over Ground Rules and more generally, in what he described as a flawed process. Some signs that Michael Ancram's explanations of Government policy made an impact on others. McCrea complained of feeling his party was left out: HMG consulted regularly with the UUP, and the Irish with the SDLP, but no-one with his party. Michael Ancram offered him daily meetings. Much denunciation of loyalists.

4. Chairmen and Irish called late evening. SDLP and UUP said to be in contact and 'writing'; chairman had not recalled session, so as to avoid further debate on Ground Rules. Chairman had put round a note on scheduling, proposing meeting till the end of July, resuming 9 September. Loyalists and NIWC objected, seeking progress in August: provisional agreement to facilitate low-level activity in the building in August: see Mr Leach's note of yesterday.

5. Morning session, 4 June: no progress. Recriminations over SDLP refusal to hold meeting with DUP and UKUP. Main parties to see chairmen separately, resuming at 2.00 pm. UUP and SDLP to resume contact today. UKUP claim schedule is unrealistic: further comments sought by Chairman by 2.00 pm.

Signed

A J WHYSALL

3. I should be grateful for your comments and those of copy recipients on the terms of the draft.

[Signed AJ]

KEITH JACKMAN

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