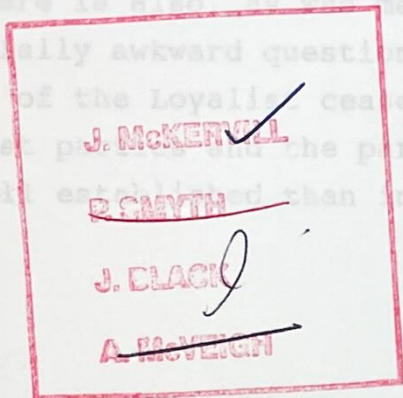


FROM: QUENTIN THOMAS
POLITICAL DIRECTOR (L)
4 July 1996
QT/MR/68229

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

MR LEGGE

cc PS/Secretary of State(L&B)
PS/Sir John Wheeler(L&B)
PS/Michael Ancram(L,B&PROCB)
PS/PUS(L&B)
PS/Sir David Fell
Mr Steele
Mr Watkins
Mr Bell
Mr Leach(L&Talks)
Mr Perry
Mr Hill
Mr Lavery
Mr Stephens
Mr Maccabe
Mr Myles SPOB



RELAYING INFORMATION ON PUNISHMENT BEATINGS TO SENATOR MITCHELL

Many thanks for your minute of 4 July. I am sure a discussion with Ministers would be helpful.

2. I very much understood the context of what you put forward. Equally perhaps I could confirm the context of my own very hurried response. It is undoubtedly true that punishment beatings go on and that this is a highly relevant piece of information which at the right moment we will probably want to bring to the attention of the Independent Chairmen, and to the delegates. (Though the delegates at least do not need us to tell them what is going on.) My own note was not intended to prevent that, but merely to suggest, as I know Michael Ancram also felt, that we should take pause and consider precisely when and how we should do it and to what end.

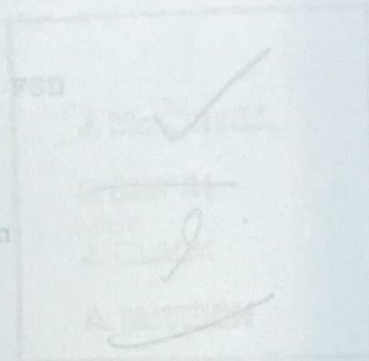
3. I agree with you that in practice the information about punishment beatings will be difficult to translate into firm evidence that any party in the Talks has demonstrably dishonoured its commitment to the Mitchell principles. But there will certainly

be an argument to that effect brought by others. Ministers may also want to begin, before long, to expose the issue privately to the Loyalist parties making clear that they will be under pressure on the issue, from HMG among others.

4. There is also, as was mentioned at the morning meeting, a potentially awkward question about the Talks consequences of any ending of the Loyalist ceasefire. As you said the nexus between the Loyalist parties and the paramilitaries behind them is less clear and well established than in the case of Sinn Fein/IRA.

[SIGNED]

Mr Leach
Mr Ray
Mr Beeton
Mr Hill
Mrs Madden, FSD
Mr Stephens
Mr MacCabe
Mr Whysall
Dr Smyth
Mr Dickinson



MISS HARRISON - B

ARRANGEMENTS FOR AUGUST

QUENTIN THOMAS
PD(L)
OAB 6447

PUS has seen Mr Leach's minute of 3 July to you attaching a note by the British Government. PUS has commented, 'as to justification, I do not think it should be based solely on bilaterals. There is a case for 'on-site' preparatory work including conversations and contacts.'

3. PUS has, therefore, amended paragraph 3 of the note. The first sentence should now read 'Some parties may wish to hold informal bilateral consultations during this period and/or engage on essential preparatory work requiring access to Castle Buildings and contacts with other participants.'

3. PUS has also said that we will need to control/limit the number of days on which participants qualify for allowances.

Signed

QT/MR/68229-4.7.96

ANITA BRADY
PRIVATE SECRETARY
4 JULY 1996