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

DESK IMMEDIATE

FROM: S J LEACH  
APD(L)  
3 July 1996

J. McKEVILL ✓  
~~R. SMITH~~  
J. BLACK  
A. McVEIGH

- 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
- Mr Legge - B
- Mr Bell - B
- Mr Blackwell - B
- Mr Watkins - B
- Mr Ray - B
- Mr Beeton - B
- Mr Hill - B
- Mrs Madden, FSD
- Mr Stephens - B
- Mr Maccabe - B
- Mr Whysall (B&L) - B
- Dr Smyth - B
- Mr Dickinson - B

Miss Harrison (B&L) - B

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR AUGUST**

At a meeting with the British and Irish sides this evening, Senator Mitchell reported that all participants except the PUP, UDP and NIWC had been content with the proposed schedule circulated this afternoon, which envisaged that the negotiations would break on Wednesday 31 July and resume on Monday 9 September. The three dissidents had argued that to demonstrate seriousness of purpose bilaterals should continue during August.

2. It was noted in discussion that there might well be advantage in the loyalists being able to suggest to their constituency during August that the process was continuing. At the same time, there would be danger in a heavily structured arrangement for bilaterals at a time when the Chairmen were clearly not involved, since this could be represented as a clear departure from the arrangements envisaged in Ground Rules and the Rules of Procedure. Michael Ancram asked me to consider what could be offered in this area - there is considerable urgency since Senator Mitchell wishes to indicate tomorrow morning, during the discussion of the proposed schedule, what the position is on the request put to him by the three parties.

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3. I have accordingly discussed the issues with David Cooney and informally brokered with him the arrangements set out in the attached note. These are based on the considerations that:

- I understand from Mr Lennox that it is any case intended to keep Block B open with restricted staffing levels during the summer recess for use by the parties. There would therefore be little additional cost under this head;
- Finance is clearly an important consideration for the parties. We could facilitate a limited amount of informal bilateral consultation by offering some modest funding to cover delegates' loss of earnings, etc, but this should not be on such a scale as to encourage any perception that substantive negotiations were taking place;
- Further to the above point, representatives of the two Governments would be contactable by the parties during this period for information purposes, but would not necessarily be present in Castle Buildings.

4. On cost, you will see that the scheme attached would cost a maximum of around £20,000 (depending on the travel and subsistence details, which I have asked you to consider) assuming that all nine parties take up to the arrangements. The Irish would meet half of this.

5. I should be grateful if you could confirm rapidly tomorrow morning that the cost and other features of the scheme are acceptable. If Ministers (and the Irish) are content, I envisage that the Chairman could announce the main points during tomorrow morning's discussion and that we would follow up by circulating the attached paper.

Signed

S J LEACH

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BB/SSTALKS/394

**BLOCK B CASTLE BUILDINGS - ARRANGEMENTS FOR AUGUST**

**NOTE BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT**

1. To complement the proposed schedule for the discussions circulated yesterday by the Chairmen, this note sets out the arrangements envisaged for Castle Buildings during the period when the negotiations will not be in session.

2. On weekends (excluding bank holidays) in the weeks commencing:

- 5 August
- 12 August
- 19 August
- 26 August
- 2 September

Block B Castle Buildings will be available for use by the parties for work connected with the negotiations. Staffing will however be restricted and some facilities - eg catering - will be available only on a limited basis.

3. Some parties may wish to hold informal bilateral consultations during this period. In recognition of this, funding will be provided to cover delegates' loss of earnings, up to the following maxima:

For each participating party, 6 half day delegates' allowances of £50 will be available in each of the five weeks. For an individual delegate, there will be a maximum of 3 such allowances payable per week.

Parties will also be entitled to a party support allowance of £100 for each week in which they engage in informal consultations.

Further guidance will be issued on travel and subsistence arrangements.

POLITICAL AFFAIRS  
DIVISION  
3 JUL 1996

4. Representatives of the Governments will be contactable during this period for the purpose of exchanging information and clarifying issues which parties may wish to raise.

*[Handwritten signatures and initials in a box]*

- PS/708 (SCL) - B
- PS/Sir D Fell - B
- Mr Thomas - B
- Mr Steele - B
- Mr Watkins - B
- Mr Leach - B
- Mr Corrin - B
- Mr Parry - B
- Mr Hill - B
- Mr Lavery - B
- Mr Stephens - B
- Mr Harrode - B
- Mr Hyles - B

4 July 1996

MR LEACH - B

RELAYING INFORMATION ON PUNISHMENT BEATINGS TO THE IRISH

Your submission of 3 July seeking Ministerial approval to provide purely factual material on punishment beatings on a regular basis to the Independent Chairman prompted me to ask whether we, in the Secretariat, should not be providing a similar service for our Irish colleagues - especially by way of demonstrating adverse trends and the true nature of Republican social work. (I believe incidentally that a graph would make the first of these points even clearer to Senator Mitchell and his colleagues.)

2. I understand why we will be asking Senator Mitchell to restrict the distribution of the reports you propose to his Co-Chairman and their supporting staff. But for more than one reason, it would astonish me if it did not become known that this material was being passed on a regular basis to the Chairman. So why not, - my thinking goes, quite independently - and with precisely no reference to the Chairman briefing exercise - provide this information, first to Senator Mitchell and Co and, second, to my Irish colleagues here. We shall have been providing the...