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The Honorable Dermott Gleeson SC  
Office of the Attorney General  
Government Buildings  
Dublin 2

19 September 1996

## ALLIANCE PARTY REPRESENTATIONS - SKELETON JUDGMENT

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has asked me to forward to you the attached skeleton of a possible 'judgment' in relation to the representations made by the Alliance Party concerning alleged breaches of the Mitchell principles by the UUP, DUP, and the Loyalist Parties.

The attached draft sets out a possible approach to what would become the Governments' formal Conclusions in this case. However, although not presented particularly well by the Alliance Party or the respondents, the core complaints, particularly in relation to Drumcree, are not without difficulty. Therefore, the Secretary of State would very much welcome your initial thoughts on the analytical approach adopted in the attached draft.

I have also this afternoon arranged for a copy of the draft skeleton judgment to be forwarded through the Maryfield Secretariat. However, the Secretary of State asked that I contact you directly as well in the interests of expedition.

If this would be helpful, I would be happy to discuss the attached draft with you at your convenience. Alternatively, you may prefer to discuss it with the Secretary of State.

I have alerted Martha Pope that it is problematic whether the Governments' Conclusions in this case will be ready to be delivered on Monday morning as originally envisaged.

[signed DAL]

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FROM: D A LAVERY  
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PS/Secretary of State (B&L)  
 PS/Michael Ancram (B&L)  
 PS/Sir David Fell  
 Mr Thomas o/r  
 Mr Leach (B&L)  
 Mr Watkins  
 Mr Bell  
 Mr Hill (B&L)  
 Mr Maccabe  
 Mr Stephens  
 Mr Whysall (B&L)  
 Mr Jagelman

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (B&amp;L)

ALLIANCE REPRESENTATIONS - SKELETON JUDGMENT

1. This is to let you have a copy of the skeleton judgment incorporating the further textual amendments suggested by the Secretary of State last night.
2. As requested I have also forwarded a copy to the Irish Attorney-General for consideration.
3. I have also asked Mr Bell to hand a copy of the draft skeleton judgement to his Irish colleagues.
4. I shall provide further briefing as soon as I have the Attorney's comments.

(Signed DAL)

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