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FROM: D J & HILL  
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM  
18 JULY 1986

DESK IMMEDIATE

cc	PS/Secretary of State (L&B)	- B
	PS/Michael Ancram (L&B)	- B
	PS/Sir John Wheeler (L&B)	- B
	PS/PUS (L&B)	- B
	PS/Sir David Fell	- B
	Mr Legge	- B
	Mr Thomas	- B
	Mr Bell	- B
	Mr Leach	- B
	Mr Steele	- B
	Mr Watkins	- B
	Mrs Collins	- B
	Mr Hill	- B
	Mr Lavery	- B
	Mr Lindsay	- B
	Mr Maccabe	- B
	Mr Perry	- B
	Ms Checksfield	- B
	Ms Mapstone	- B
	Floats (3)	

PS/Secretary of State (L&amp;B)

TILES: MEETING WITH SENATOR

Mr Leach and I have just had a meeting with Senator Mitchell.

1. Senator Mitchell is depressed that Seamus Mallon is showing no inclination to concede or negotiate on any of the 3/4 outstanding issues between the SDLP and UUP on the rules of procedure. Equally, there is no sign of movement from the UUP. He is puzzled about how to deal with the additional complication posed by the DUP paper of this morning.

2. On the agenda he was pleased to hear the outcome of the meeting with the UUP, but had heard that Seamus Mallon was opposed to it.

4. On timing the UUP have pressed him to allow more time, ie to aim for a resolution on 29/30 July, not next week, on the grounds that the DUP/UKUP will be able to criticise haste as "despotic imposition". Equally, he is not clear how next week could be used constructively or how the situation could be any better by 29 July.

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B. McN  
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FROM: D J R HILL  
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM  
18 JULY 1996

DESK IMMEDIATE

cc: PS/Michael Ancram (L&B) -B  
PS/PUS (L&B) -B  
PS/Sir David Fell -B  
Mr Thomas -B  
Mr Leach -B  
Mr Bell -B  
Mr Stephens -B  
Mr Lavery -B  
Mr Maccabe -B  
Ms Harrison/Mr Whysall -B  
Mr Lamont RID -B  
HMA Dublin -B  
Ms Collins, Cabinet Office -B  
(via IPL)

PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - B

TALKS: MEETING WITH SENATOR MITCHELL, 2PM

Mr Leach and I have just had a meeting with Senator Mitchell.

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5. However, he has told the UUP, SDLP and DUP that unless the rules of procedure and agenda are settled by the end of the month the Independent Chairmen will be forced to conclude that their assessment of Tuesday (that progress was possible) was wrong, and would so inform the two Governments. This may help to focus minds and I welcomed it.

6. As to the endgame on the rules of procedure, I illustrated the benefits of a scenario in which the Chairmen presented a single text, reflecting their best judgement of what would be acceptable. Senator Mitchell was slightly dubious but did not rule it out.

7. The Secretary of State may wish to discuss with Mr Spring:

- a) whether we can afford to defer until 29/30 July any attempt to reach a conclusion on the rules of procedure and agenda;
- b) whether it is any longer realistic to pursue the goal of agreement on the rules of procedure (even between the UUP and SDLP);
- c) what advice/assistance should be offered to Senator Mitchell on these points.

8. My own view, sharpened by news of what I hope is a UFF hoax in Dublin, is that the two Governments should encourage Senator Mitchell to table a proposed final text of the rules of procedure for adoption in plenary on Monday 22 July: and that the two Governments should table the "20 June" agenda on the same basis.

(signed)

D J R HILL  
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM  
CB x22317

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