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FROM: D J R HILL
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM
4 SEPTEMBER 1996

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L)
PS/PUS (B&L)
PS/Sir David Fell
Mr Thomas
Mr Leach
Mr Bell
Mr Watkins
Mr Wood (B&L)
Mr Stephens
Mr Maccabe
Mr Lavery
Mr Whysall
Miss Mapstone
Miss Bharucha
Mr Campbell-Bannerman
HMA Dublin
Mr Clarke, HME Dublin
Mr Lamont, RID
Ms Collins, Cabinet Office

PS/Michael Ancram (B&L)

ADARE - REPORT ON UUP MEETING

I attach a speaking note which summarises the outcome of this afternoon's meeting with the UUP.

2. You will see that although it reports the UUP "proposal" to defer the plenary until Tuesday it doesn't argue in support of it.
3. I have some reservations about the proposal which I can discuss with the Minister en route to Dublin tomorrow morning. In summary:
 - . It would barely reduce the level of fuss which the DUP and UKUP will make over the Loyalists' continued presence at the talks on Monday. (The suggested speaking note on this point which I circulated earlier this afternoon offers a reasonable alternative way of countering the effects of any DUP/UKUP stunt).

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- . It would (further) undermine the credibility of the talks process on a day which is bound to attract media coverage if the plenary could not even meet as advertised.
- . The Irish and SDLP would be bound to react very badly to any suggestion of postponing the plenary. They would claim it as further evidence of Unionist procrastination and lack of commitment.

4. I think it would be preferable to proceed as planned, try to launch the resumed talks on a purposeful and determined note (perhaps building on the draft opening statement as circulated earlier today) and deal with any DUP/UKUP stunt by pointing to the Rule 29 procedure. The UUP were halfway to agreeing that there were presentational advantages in starting with "opening statements/introductory remarks" and there may be opportunities over the weekend to convince Mr Trimble that this is the right way to proceed.

(Signed)

D J R HILL

Political Development Team

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