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AUSBilateral  
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ASSISTANT SEC  
CPL 1062

From: PS/Secretary of State  
6 September 1996

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 Legge - B  
Mr Bell - B  
Mr Leach (B&L) - B  
Mr Watkins - B  
Mr Wood (B&L) - B  
Mr Ray - B  
Mr Hill (B&L) - B  
Mr Lavery - B  
Mr Maccabe - B  
Mr Beeton - B  
Mr Whysall (B&L) - B  
Miss Bharucha - B  
Mrs Mapstone - B  
HMA Dublin - B  
Mr Campbell-Bannerman - B  
Mr Holmes, No 10

*AMCN.*

Mr Thomas (B&L) - B

#### CONVERSATION WITH DAVID TRIMBLE

The Secretary of State spoke to David Trimble this morning to find out how the UUP/SDLP meeting had gone yesterday and to try to arrange a bilateral with him at the BIA conference tomorrow.

#### UUP/SDLP meeting

2. Mr Trimble reported only briefly (because he was speaking from the UUP delegation room at the Forum) that the meeting with the SDLP was satisfactory, as far as it went. They had put a number of points to the SDLP for consideration and would meet them again on Monday. The atmosphere was cordial.

#### BIA

3. Trimble agreed to meet the Secretary of State and Michael Ancram on Saturday afternoon. He said a fuller read out of the SDLP meeting would be given then.

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Resumption of Talks - 9 September

4. On resumption of talks, the Secretary of State mentioned (from Michael Ancram's meeting with Dr Paisley last night) the DUP intention to grandstand and to try to have talks adjourned until the Rule 29 procedure had been completed. Trimble was nervous. The last thing he wanted was for the DUP to walk out and snipe at him from outside. He thought it was better for the plenary to be opened and then adjourned quickly for bilaterals; then there would be nothing for the DUP to walk out of. There was little to be done in plenary anyway, he said.

The Forum

5. Trimble briefly mentioned the flag issue and the Secretary of State's refusal to approve some of the rules of procedure. He referred back to the Convention in 1975 and how flying the flag was not in the rules of procedure then because Stormont Buildings had arrangements in place for flying the flag. The UUP were thinking of proposing that a resolution be passed instructing the staff of the Forum to place a Union flag somewhere within the Forum. He asked if the Secretary of State had any problem with that. The Secretary of State said the Forum was the master of what it chose to do - what was proposed gave him no jurisdiction. It was a pity that the issue had ever been raised.

(SIGNED)

W K LINDSAY  
Private Secretary

Michael Ancram met Lord Alderdice, Sean Noonan, Steve McBride and Eileen Bell on Friday 6 September as part of a series of meetings with the main parties in advance of 9 September.

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