

RECEIVED 23 JUL 1996

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NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE (B)

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Date: 23 July, 1996

cc

PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B
PS/Sir John Wheeler (B,L&DFP) - B
PS/Michael Ancram (B, L&DENI) - B
PS/Malcolm Moss (B, DHSS&DOE) - B
PS/Baroness Denton (B, DOE&DANI) - B
PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Sir David Fell - B
Mr Thomas (B&L) - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Legge (B&L) - B
Mr Leach - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Wood (B&L) - B
Mr Beeton - B
Mr Currie - B
Mr D Hill (B&L) - B
Mr Lavery - B
Mr Lindsay - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Perry - B
Mr Stephens - B
Ms Checksfield - B
Miss Harrison (B&L) - B
Ms Mapstone - B
Mr Whysall (B&L) - B
Ms Collins, Cab Off (via IPL) - B
Mr O'Mahony, TAU - B
Mr Lamont, RID FCO - B
HMA Dublin - B
Mr Westmacott (via RID) - B
Mr Campbell-Bannerman - B
Mrs McNally (B&L) - B

Cm(A)

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

TALKS, 22 JULY: SUMMARY

1. A day that finished better than it started. The Secretary of State had established over the weekend that Mr Trimble was now content with the agenda, with little distance to go on rules of procedure. Early Irish reports about the state of mind of the SDLP were pessimistic, with the Irish pressing for full completion of the opening plenary by next Tuesday as the price of satisfying them; but as the day went on, Mr Mallon appeared more accommodating.

2. In the 'conferring' session, the Secretary of State emphasised that progress was now critical. Mrs Owens' lengthy chiding of the delegates for lack of progress was very badly received. The Chairmen proposed bilaterals for today, with resumed 'conferring' session on Wednesday, to discuss their assessment of the most-nearly agreed way of proceeding. The Irish are considering the text of a proposition by the Governments on progress. No plenary likely before Monday, however, Mr McCartney being away (he returns then for two days).

3. The 'bloodletting' session the Chairmen felt obliged to accord the DUP went better than feared: constructive approaches from Robinson, Durkan and Donaldson, with SDLP/Unionist contacts envisaged for today.

(signed)

A J WHYSALL