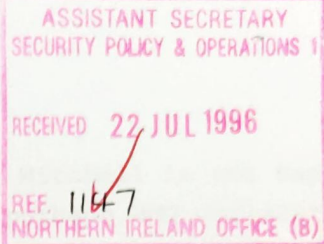


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FROM: D J R HILL  
CPL  
19 JULY 1996

51/010

cc: PS/Sir John Wheeler (L&B) -B  
PS/PUS (L&B) -B  
PS/Sir David Fell -B  
Mr Thomas -B  
Mr Legge -B  
Mr Bell -B  
Mr Watkins -B  
Mr Steele -B  
Mr Wood (L&B) -B  
Mr Stephens -B  
Mr Beeton -B  
Mr Maccabe -B  
Mr Perry -B  
Mr Currie -B  
Mr Lavery -B  
Ms Harrison -B  
Mr Whysall -B  
Ms Checksfield -B  
Ms Mapstone -B  
Mr Dickinson -B  
Mr Campbell-Bannerman -B  
Mr Lamont, RID -B  
HMA Dublin -B  
Ms Collins, Cabinet Office -B

ew @

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

#### TALKS, 22 JULY: HANDLING PLAN

We will be seeing the Irish at 10.30 and Senator Mitchell and his colleagues at 11 am.

2. The gameplan (as at the time of writing) is to get the "20 June" agenda and a "final draft" rules of procedure put to plenary for adoption at the earliest opportunity; and then push ahead with a view to completing the opening plenary before the summer break, which may need to be deferred. There are a number of ways in which this might work. Ideally, Senator Mitchell can be persuaded to table a final draft of the rules of procedure, with the two Governments perhaps jointly tabling the agenda and promoting agreement on the accelerated timetable (while encouraging someone to move that the two

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documents be taken as a package). If Senator Mitchell is not happy to take such a lead, the two Governments (or perhaps HMG unilaterally but with Irish Government support) might put a paper forward, enclosing the agenda and rules of procedure and proposing that they be put (as a package) to plenary on the basis that the summer break would be deferred until the opening plenary had ended. In either case it seems sensible to avoid further round table conferring, get into plenary and adopt the rules and agenda by sufficient consensus.

3. The pre-brief might focus on

- news from the road (especially contacts with Senator Mitchell, Mr Trimble and the Irish);
- the target timetable for the day/week, bearing in mind the proposals for a "spleen-venting" session, UUP and Senator Mitchell's reactions to the idea of a "fast-track", how advanced the Independent Chairmen are likely to be with the preparation of a "final draft" rules of procedure document, the commitment given to Mr McCartney that there would be no plenary on 23 or 24 July [although we understand Cedric Wilson will now be available on 24 July];
- handling the meetings with the Irish and the Independent Chairmen: what marching orders/advice should we give to Senator Mitchell on finalising the rules of procedure and on the timing and handling of meetings; what mechanism might be developed to ensure that the rules and agenda are taken as a package; would it be procedurally justifiable to move straight to plenary?
- practical preparations (see below).

#### Practical Preparations

Against the possibility of early forward movement on a range of

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scenarios I attach

- A. - a short statement which Ministers might draw on in any spleen-venting session. It is intended to preempt recriminations and encourage everyone to look ahead and support the need for real forward movement in the talks. Senator Mitchell might be encouraged to invite HMG to go first so that we can set a constructive tone for the debate.
- B. - speaking notes on which Ministers might draw in supporting and endorsing any rules of procedure document/which the chairmen might table
- C. - ditto in respect of the agenda (together with a longer note, based on Stephen Leach's earlier draft, setting out the rationale for the proposed agenda).

4. On Monday morning I will aim to circulate a draft "proposition" from HMG [or both Governments] which would introduce the package on agenda/rules/timescale and which we might put to the parties to stimulate movement. This would provide us with the basis for a positive public presentation of the Government's position. We will also aim to put together, by Monday lunchtime, our best shot at the rules of procedure.

5. Mr Stephens has commissioned a review of HMG's draft opening statement and its statement addressing the International Body's proposals on decommissioning. I will circulate a handling plan and speaking notes for the discussion of the comprehensive agenda for the negotiations.

6. If the discussion of the agenda moves forward to a consideration of the Mitchell proposals on decommissioning it may become desirable for colleagues from the security side of the office to become more closely involved in support of Ministers: we will keep them abreast of developments.

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7. Against the possibility that the proposed approach is unsuccessful Mr Stephens will be working up a possible public statement of HMG's position for use in a "breakdown" situation.

(signed)

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