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SECURITY POLICY & OPERATIONS 1

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FROM: S J LEACH
APD (L)
17 JULY 1996

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cc: PS/Secretary of State (B&L) -B
PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) -B
PS/PUS (B&L) -B
PS/Sir David Fell -B
Mr Thomas -B
Mr Legge -B
Mr Bell -B
Mr Steele -B
Mr Watkins -B
Mr Hill -B
Mr Perry -B
Mr Lavery -B
Mr Maccabe -B
Mr Stephens -B
Mr Beeton -B
Ms Checksfield -B
Ms Harrison -B
Mr Whysall -B

PS/Michael Ancram (B&L) - B

SPEAKING NOTE: AGENDA FOR OPENING PLENARY SESSION

In your note of 8 July you recorded the Minister's comments on the revised speaking note for the discussion on the agenda for the Opening Plenary Session which I submitted on 5 July.

2. I now attach a further revision of these speaking notes (which replaces an earlier version which Ministers saw this morning). These are influenced particularly by the fact that, as the Minister said yesterday, we do not now have the luxury of taking the issues slowly. The SDLP are pressing for an early resolution of the Rules and Agenda together, and our aim is therefore to broker the latter in bilaterals with (particularly) the UUP before it is exposed in the resumed round-table conference.

3. The attached points to make accordingly dispense with the stage of making an initial case for the 6 June agenda, and move instead to explaining and presenting the later draft which we have

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contingently agreed with the Irish. Attached to the speaking notes are the proposed new agenda (Annex A), the 6 June draft for comparison (Annex B) and the terms of reference for the sub-committee on decommissioning which we will propose, in the same terms as in the 6 June "Opening Scenario" paper (Annex C).

4. Some of the speaking notes refer to points of specific concern to Unionists. These are placed in square brackets for use only if the issues are raised. The two final sets of points are specific to the UUP and DUP respectively, as indicated to the text.

5. [Later]. It should be recorded that the Secretary of State had a constructive meeting on the agenda with David Trimble this morning. While this did not get into detail, the UUP leader showed signs of wishing to settle the Agenda rapidly, and took away a copy of the new version (Annex A) to consider with his colleagues.

(signed)

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