

511010

LA - Talks

FROM: IAN MAYE
Security Policy and Operations Division
5 July 1996

DESK IMMEDIATE

cc PS/PUS (B&L) - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Blackwell - B
Mr Leach - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Hill - B
Mr Stephens - B
Mrs Madden
Ms Checksfield - B
Mr Dickinson - B
Mr Fisher - B
Ms Harrison - B
Mr O'Mahoney - B
Mr Porter - B
Mrs Sear - B
Mr Burgess

Mr Jones, FSD - F

**INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN AND STAFF: TERMS AND CONDITIONS - DRAFT
GUIDANCE**

Ms Checksfield asked me to check whether the draft guidance for the International Body had in fact been issued. I can confirm that the guidance was passed to Martha Pope, David Pozorski and the other staffers to the International Body. We also met the staffers to discuss the guidance shortly after the Body was established. They, and the members of the Body were quite happy to work within the guidelines.

2. I should also add that Ms Checksfield is quite right to emphasise that the people involved are extremely unlikely to abuse any of the freedoms they are given. I found them to be frugal in the extreme; Mitchell in particular was always keen to save money and avoid extravagance wherever possible. The Irish, who issued corporate credit cards to the members of the Body and their staffers checked each credit card bill in fine detail and could find no

discrepancies and no evidence of wrongful use of the cards. I very much echo the thought at paragraph 12 of Ms Checksfield's minute.

3. As regards the guidance on hospitality at Annex B of Ms Checksfield's note, I should explain that the guidance issued to the International Body was derived from the internal NIO guidance on hospitality, and the guidance issued by Department of Justice. The intention of the square bracketed sentence of paragraph 6 was to ensure accountability for the money spent. It is normal practice within the NIO to identify those on whom hospitality is spent. I understand that the Irish have similar arrangements. The point of the confidentiality clause is that it is permissible in both systems for the names of those entertained to be withheld where those authorising the expenditure believe clear security or confidentiality reasons for withholding the names exist. Neither we nor the Irish felt that it would be appropriate to force the Body to reveal the names of all those it entertained. The staffers had no difficulty in accepting these arrangements.

(Signed)

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