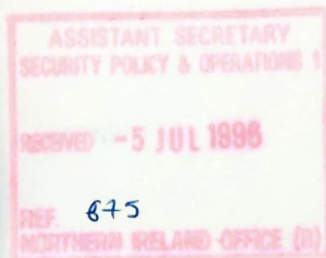


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From: Clare Checksfield  
IPL  
5 July 1996



cc	Mr Thomas (L&B)	- B
	Mr Leach (L&B)	- B
	Mr Bell	- B
	Mr Wood (L&B)	- B
	Mr Beeton	- B
	Mr Hill	- B
	Mr Maccabe	- B
	Mr Perry	- B
	Mr Stephens	- B
	Mr Fisher	- B
	Miss Harrison (L&B)	- B
	Mrs Jude	- B
	Mrs Mapstone	- B
	Mr Whysall	- B

MR CORNICK - by fax

#### PRESS SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENT CHAIRMEN

1. In the course of my discussions with Martha Pope this week (during which I talked her out of keeping a US-based press aide on the Chairmen's staff), it became clear that there is doubt, at least in my mind, over press arrangements for the Independent Chairmen.
2. Martha (which means Senator Mitchell) is clearly following the precedent of the International Body (she mentioned specifically the arrangement of the press conference for the announcement of their report).
3. We discussed this, and I made the point that talks were rather different. She and I agreed that further use of Diane Dewhirst in the US would now be subject to a formal approach to both Governments. This has raised the question of principle in my mind, as to whether the UK (and Irish?) press offices can offer support to the Independent Chairmen on press matters (as and when any announcements are made), or whether that would taint their independence.
4. What happened in 1991/1992 - and if there is either an existing policy or you develop one as a result of this note, can it both be agreed with the Irish and conveyed to the Independent Chairmen? It

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may not completely negate further claims for press support in the US - Martha's point is that at moments of peak activity (such as the speculation preceding Senator Mitchell's actual appointment) they need a US press service - but might clear one of the many small confusions!

(SIGNED):

Clare Checksfield  
Room 1/111  
Tel: 210-6503

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