

CONFIDENTIAL

51/010

DESK IMMEDIATE

FROM: P N BELL  
JOINT SECRETARY  
9 JULY 1996

*fn*  
*10/1/96*  
cc: PS/PUS (L&B) - B  
Mr Thomas (L&B) - B  
Mr Blackwell - B  
Mr Leach (L&B) - B  
Mr Watkins - B  
Mr Hill (L&B) - B  
Mrs Madden (o/r)  
Mr Dickinson, TAU - B  
Mr Fisher, AIS  
Mr Jones, FSD  
Ms Checksfield - B  
Miss Harrison (L&B) - B  
Mr Maye - B  
Mr O'Mahony, TAU - B  
Mr Porter - B  
Mrs Sear - B  
Mr Burgess - B

MR STEPHENS - B

**INDEPENDENT CHAIRMEN AND STAFF: TERMS AND CONDITIONS - DRAFT GUIDANCE**

Thank you for sending a copy of your minute of 8 July to Ms Checksfield.

2. I feel that I must take some responsibility for the ugly circumlocution to which you understandably take exception in paragraph 4 of your minute. Ms Checksfield, as negotiator in chief, may tell you the full history. But my understanding was that the Irish objected, outright, to the phrase "the UK and the Republic of Ireland". It struck me, when consulted, that "the UK and Ireland" was arguably no less objectionable from our point of view - you concede it could be argued against - in so far as the suspicious Unionists to whom you rightly draw our attention might conclude that 'Ireland', and more particularly our part of it, was being excluded from by contrast with the United Kingdom. Hence the inelegant, but unquestionably accurate geographical expression in Ms Checksfield's current draft. (Put differently, I do not believe the Irish side

CONFIDENTIAL

PH/5259

CONFIDENTIAL

here would have any difficulty with the formulation you envisage and for all the wrong reasons. Even though it is certainly by far the most elegant on the table, and capable and defensible in terms of its being what both these countries (in our case in abbreviated form) formally call ourselves.

3. So, before going for it, I at any rate would like to know whether there is another hallowed way of dealing with these contentious geo-political descriptions? A casual skim through some of the key sacred texts is not conspicuously helpful - although the formula to which you take exception is not too far away from some of the formulations in Article 2b of the Anglo-Irish Agreement (not entirely a coincidence; not perhaps entirely a recommendation either). How about "within the jurisdictions of the British (or UK) and Irish Governments"?

4. Advice (as always) gratefully received.

[Signed]

P N BELL

CONFIDENTIAL