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F. Tallis

FROM: D J R HILL
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM
24 JUNE 1996

cc: PS/Secretary of State(L&B) - B
PS/Michael Ancram (L&B) - B
PS/Sir John Wheeler (L&B) - B
PS/PUS (L&B) - B
PS/Sir David Fell - B
Mr Legge - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Daniel - B
Mr Leach - B
Mr Ray - B
Mr Shannon - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Stephens - B
Mr Beeton - B
Mrs Collins - B
Mr Lavery - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Marsh - B
Mr Perry - B
Ms Checksfield - B
Ms Mapstone - B
Mr Margetts - B
Mrs Evans, HOLAB - B
Ms K Collins, via IPL - B
HMA Dublin - B
Mr Lamont, RID - B

(Signed) PUS/ S39
25 JUN 1996
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PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (L&B)

INTERNATIONAL BODY'S PROPOSALS ON DECOMMISSIONING: HMG'S STATEMENT

The draft statement on decommissioning attached to your submission of 21 June seems excellent.

2. My only comment is on paragraph 19 where I think the language ("have agreed to", "intend to") is too definitive and fails to reflect the reality that the two Governments' views on this can only have the status of proposals. The plan set out in the paragraph is at the heart of Unionist concerns about the role of the Independent Chairman and has been raised as nauseam in the discussions about the rules of procedure. In response, the Government has made clear that

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the approach suggested in the Scenario paper is no more than a proposal, and against that background the definitive language employed here would be inappropriate. Some minor circumlocution will, I believe, be necessary.

(Signed)

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