

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT
TEAM

30 SEP 1996

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FROM: J A STEPHENS
IPL DIVISION
30 SEPTEMBER 1996

cc: PS/Michael Ancram (L&B) - B
PS/Sir John Wheeler (L&B) - B
PS/PUS (L&B) - B
PS/Sir David Fell - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Leach - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Wood (L&B) - B
Mr Hill (L&B) - B
Mr Maccabe - B

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (L&B) - B

HUME/ADAMS: FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ARTICLE

We need to tie down today the final arrangements for the publication of the Prime Minister's article, which he sent to Hume on Friday.

Timing

2. On Friday, No 10's plan was to publish on Tuesday in a national newspaper, but they were going to review this today.
3. In any discussions with No 10 about timing today, you might like to bear in mind two points:
 - if, as seems likely, the UUP are going for high profile press conference today, then that will be reported in Tuesday's newspapers as well. There may be a case for putting at least a day or two's distance between those reports and the Prime Minister's article;
 - given that Hume, and presumably Adams, have had the text over the weekend (along with the Irish and US Governments) without any instant leak appearing, we can perhaps be a little more sanguine about the risk of a leak if the article is delayed a little;

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- I don't know if there has been any reaction from John Hume, but that also might be a factor.

Pre-briefing

4. The information handling plan which you sent No 10 on 25 September called for a number of individuals to be briefed the day before publication. Once we have established the timing of publication, I suggest we allocate this briefing as follows:

Timing only

- Hume: No 10
- Irish Government: talks team Belfast (and/or No 10 to Teahon)
- US Government: No 10 to Lake (and/or NIO L to US Embassy London)

Timing and content of article

- Trimble: Secretary of State
- Cardinal Daly: Michael Ancram
- Opposition: Secretary of State/Michael Ancram
- Government supporters: Mr Campbell Bannerman to advise.

5. This strikes me as the priority list, but others one might add (particularly if they are in Castle Buildings at the right time) include:

- Alderdice (Michael Ancram)

- Loyalist parties (Michael Ancram)
- Archbishop Eames (Secretary of State - although the Archbishop will obviously not be in Castle Buildings).

6. I shall also let you have, late today, a short briefing note to put around Cabinet colleagues.

SIGNED

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