CONFIDENTIAL

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REF. NORTHERN IRECAND OFFICE (9)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

51/10

ROM: R P LEMON
PS/Michael Ancram
16 September 1996

cc PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B PS/Michael Ancram (B&L) - B PS/PUS (B&L) - B PS/Sir David Fell - B Mr Legge - B Mr Leach - B Mr Steele - B Mr Watkins - B Mr Bell - B Mr Wood (B&L) - B Mr Stephens - B Mr Lavery - B PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B Mr Maccabe - B Mr Priestly - B Mr Hill (B&L) - B Mr Whysall (B&L) - B Mr Campbell-Bannerman - B Ms Mapstone - B Ms Bharucha - B Mr Lamont, RID - B Mr Westmacott Mr Oakden Ms Collins

TALKS, WEEK BEGINNING 16 SEPTEMBER - SUGGESTED GAMEPLAN

Michael Ancram has seen Mr Hill's note of 12 September suggesting a gameplan for talks during week commencing 16 September.

The Minister has said that there will always be a bit of the chicken and egg conundrum in trying to find the best way through with the UUs on decommissioning. It remains, however, firmly the Minister's opinion - and he regrets it was not stated as an option in this paper - that this gameplan is the wrong way round. The Minister has said that if he were in the UUs he wouldn't get engaged in any other aspects until he had seen the colour of the legislation. He believes that initially each Government should do this separately and privately hold in the tri-lateral configuration for the next phase.

Signed R P LEMON PS/Michael Ancram