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ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SECURITY POLICY & OPERATIONS

51/10

RECEIVED 13 SEP 1996

19/11

REF. NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE (SI)

FROM: PS/SECRETARY OF STATE
13 SEPTEMBER 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 Thomas o/r -B
Mr Legge -B
Mr Bell -B
Mr Steele -B
Mr Watkins -B
Mr Wood (L&B) -B
Mr Beeton -B
Mr Hill -B
Mr Lavery -B
Mr Maccabe -B
Mr Perry -B
w (8) ✓ Mr Stephens -B
Mr Priestly -B
Mr Whysall -B
Ms Mapstone -B
Ms Bharucha -B
Mr Campbell Bannerman -T
Mr Nissan, HOLAB -B
Mr Lamont, RID -B
HMA, Dublin -B
Ms Collins, Cabinet Office -T

Mr Leach -B

GETTING ON THE FAST TRACK: NEXT STEPS

The Secretary of State was very grateful for your submission of 12 September on this subject. He is content with the papers at Annex A and B as drafted, subject to Michael Ancram's views later today.

2. The Secretary of State has not offered a view on the proposed amendment to line 2, para 3 of Annex A. I have asked PS/Michael Ancram to check his Minister's view on this again in the light of the reasoning put forward in para 5(i) of your submission. The alternative formulae about when the Governments would be willing to publish the draft bills can be left for the present.

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ps. I would be grateful if Mr Lemon could contact Mr Bell, once he has the views of his Minister on the submission, so that arrangements can be made for the relevant documents to be passed to the Irish.

(Signed)

W K LINDSAY
PS/SECRETARY OF STATE

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