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FROM: JULIE MAPSTONE
International and Planning Division
10 September 1996

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SECURITY POLICY & OPERATIONS 1

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NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE (B)

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B
PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B
PS/Michael Ancram (B&L) - B
PS/Malcolm Moss (DHSS, DOE&L) - B
PS/Baroness Denton (DED, DANI&L) - B
PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Sir David Fell - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Legge - B
Mr Leach - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Wood (B&L) - B
Mr Beeton - B
Mr Priestly - B
Mr Hill (B&L) - B
Mr Lavery - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Perry - B
Mr Stephens - B
Ms Bharucha - B
Ms Mapstone - B
Mr Whysall (B&L) - B
Mr Holmes, No 10 - M
Ms Collins, Cab Off (via IPL) - B
Mr O'Mahony, TAU - B
Mr Lamont, RID FCO - B
HMA Dublin - B
Mr Westmacott (via RID) - B
Mr Campbell-Bannerman - B
Mrs McNally (B&L) - B

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

TALKS, 10 SEPTEMBER: SUMMARY 3.30 PM

The plenary commenced to hear examination of the case made by the DUP against the PUP and the UDP for breach of the Mitchell principles over the CLMC death threat to two former associates, and the bomb attack on the home of one of them.

2. As the Loyalists parties' rebuttal had only been received by most participants this morning, there was an early adjournment specifically to allow the DUP to examine the statement. There then

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followed a plenary session during which the party making the allegation and the parties against whom an allegation had been made, presented their cases, followed by a period of questioning involving all participants and then a general discussion.

3. The DUP's case is that the parties are inextricably associated with the CLMC which issued the death threat. Moreover they have not condemned it, nor the bomb attack on the home of Alec Kerr's parents. The Loyalist parties' rebuttal rests on their assertion that their relation with CLMC is advisory only, that they have consistently opposed violence, and have in fact offered a mediation role in the CLMC dispute. They have also reaffirmed their total and absolute commitment to the Mitchell principles.

4. All parties, including those (notably the DUP and UKUP) which believe there has been a clear breach of the Mitchell principles, stated that their prime objective was not to have the Loyalist parties removed, but to affirm the importance of the Mitchell principles to the talks process and to have the death threat lifted. The Alliance Party believe there had been a breach of the principles but want to find another form of censure other than exclusion of the parties. The DUP believe the rules permit no other outcome if a breach is found; the way to keep the Loyalist parties in the process is for the CLMC to lift the threat.

5. The two governments are now considering their judgement which will be announced at a plenary tomorrow morning.

Signed:

JULIE MAPSTONE

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