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POLITICAL AFFAIR
DIVISION
15 OCT 1996
DUBLIN BELFAST

FROM: A J WHYSALL
Political Development Team
15 October 1996

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&L) - 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
Mr Whysall (B&L) - B
Ms Collins, Cab Off (via IPL) - B
Mr Dickinson, TAU - B
Mr Lamont, RID FCO - B
HMA Dublin - B
Mr Westmacott (via RID) - B
Mr Campbell-Bannerman - B
Mrs McNally (B&L) - B
Mr Holmes, No 10

J. McKEIVILL
R. SMITH
J. BLACK
A. McKEICH

TALKS: SUMMARY, 15 OCTOBER

Following the agreement in the early hours of the UUP/SDLP agenda for the remainder of the Opening Plenary - the DUP AND UKUP dissenting - debate was lower key, Paisley and Trimble being absent.

The first item on the agenda - circulation and introduction of proposals for the comprehensive agenda - was dealt with quickly. The UUP, SDLP and Alliance submitted agendas in identical terms. There were few substantial comments on introduction, the session lasting less than an hour in total.

Consideration then turned to how the address to decommissioning would proceed. The SDLP, for reasons not wholly clear, declined to

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have the question referred to the Business Committee. The plenary accordingly moved immediately to the first element of the "address", the discussion of the International Body's proposals on decommissioning. The UUP opened with a brief exposition of their anxiety; followed by an hour-long demonstration by Mr McCartney that all recent Government initiatives in Northern Ireland had been an attempt to buy off PIRA violence by attacks on the Union.

Participants were given an opportunity of circulating papers, and did so late in the evening (others intend to do so at a later stage). Analysis follows, but the UUP paper appears to adhere to the main points of their earlier, public document; and Alliance's seems to be merely a copy of the evidence it put to the International Body.

Signed:

A J WHYSALL

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