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FROM: PETER MAY
Political Development Team
11 September 1996

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POLITICAL AFFAIR
DIVISION
12 SEP 1996

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B
PS/Sir John Wheeler (B,L&DFP) - B
PS/Michael Ancram (B, L&DENI) - B
PS/Malcolm Moss (B, DHSS&DOE) - B
PS/Baroness Denton (B, DOE&DANI) - 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

Mr. Leach

12/4

TALKS, 11 SEPTEMBER: SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Talks remain procedurally oriented, with further claims about breaches of the Mitchell principles to be heard next week. All participants stay in talks, but little progress is made.

2. The early surprise news from the office of the Independent Chairman was that Senator Mitchell had left for the US on urgent private business and was unlikely to return before Wednesday 18 September. His office were insistent his departure was unrelated to talks.

3. On the issue of the text of the two Governments' determination with regard to DUP's claim to exclude the loyalist

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parties, agreement that no action was appropriate was reached between the Secretary of State and the Irish Attorney General the text was promulgated to the parties at the afternoon plenary.

4. The Alliance Party have introduced a similar claim directed separately against the UUP, the UDP and PUP, and the DUP in regard to different events covering Drumcree, the CLMC threat and McCrea's attendance at the Wright rally respectively. A similar procedure allowing rebuttals and debate will ensue, concluding with a judgement by the two Governments, but delaying substantive discussions in talks.

5. In a bilateral with the UUP, they indicated that progress was being made with the SDLP on the agenda, and that the Irish Government had indicated that they would show the Unionists the text of their decommissioning draft bill early next week. The UUP were happy for work to continue in bilaterals and trilaterals in advance of the plenary discussion. In terms of an outcome to the plenary debate on decommissioning, they were specifically looking for a commitment by the two Governments to introduce legislation, coverage of the need for international verification, clarification about any amnesty and a commitment by all delegates to implement the Mitchell recommendations on decommissioning. This would mean Sinn Fein would both need to accept the Mitchell principles and sign up to the implementation of decommissioning in order to enter talks subsequently.

6. The afternoon plenary proved repetitive and frustrating to many participants - particularly the SDLP - but there were no walkouts in response to the decision on the UDP and PUP. It was agreed that the Government's determination would be discussed by participants for two hours next week. The Independent Chairman will rule on whether there is anything new the UDP and PUP to answer on in the Alliance's claims. Business was adjourned until 1000 on 16 September.

Signed

PETER MAY

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