

B/S

FROM: MRS D E McNALLY  
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM  
9 SEPTEMBER 1996



cc: PS/Secretary of State (B&L)- B  
PS/Michael Ancram (B,L) - B  
PS/PUS (B&L) - B  
PS/Sir David Fell - B  
Mr Bell - B  
Mr Steele - B  
Mr Watkins - B  
Mr Hill (B&L) - B  
Mr Lavery - B  
Mr Maccabe - B  
Mr Stephens - B  
Mr Whysall (B&L) - B  
Ms Collins, Cab Off (via IPL)-B  
Mr Lamont, RID FCO -B  
HMA Dublin -B  
Mr Campbell-Bannerman -B

*DS Smith*  
*CG/19*

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

STATEMENT BY SENATOR GEORGE J MITCHELL: 9 SEPTEMBER 1996

I attach a copy of the statement made by Senator Mitchell at this morning's plenary following the resumption of the multi-party talks at Castle Buildings.

(Signed)

MRS D E McNALLY  
Political Development Team

Office of the Independent Chairmen

STATEMENT BY SENATOR GEORGE J MITCHELL

SEPTEMBER 9, 1996

I am pleased that the talks resumed today. I join my colleagues, General de Chastelain and Prime Minister Holkeri, in encouraging the participants to make rapid substantive progress on the important issues with which they are dealing.

I noted the continued speculation in the press that I will shortly leave the talks. Such speculation is unfounded and untrue.

When I accepted the invitation of the Governments to participate in these talks, I accepted enthusiastically because I believed the talks represent an historic opportunity for the people of Northern Ireland. That is still my view.

I told the Governments then that from time to time I would have to be absent to meet other commitments. That has been and will continue to be the case. So while there will continue to be occasional days when my presence elsewhere will be necessary, I remain deeply and totally committed to this process and will continue to do all I can to be of assistance.

END

2. The DUP had prepared a 'Notice of Indictment' against the PUP and UUP. The Chairman proposed to allow the two parties time to prepare a response; then circulate both documents to the other participants. After some debate about procedure and an adjournment, it was agreed that the 'notice' would be circulated forthwith; the PUP and UUP would have until tomorrow at 10 to prepare a response. The talks would adjourn in the meantime, the Chairman urging participants to engage in bilaterals about the rest of the opening agenda.