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PST; PSS; Ministers Owen,
de Rossa & Taylor; Attorney
General; Minister of State
Coveney; Messrs. Teahon,
Donlon & Dalton; Ambs.
London and Washington; Joint
Secretary; Counsellors A-I.

P.U.P./U.D.P. rebuttal of D.U.P. 'Notice of Indictment'

10th September 1996

The authority of this document is that it represents the shared position of the Ulster Democratic Party and the Progressive Unionist Party in relation to specific allegations levelled at both parties.

Both parties totally deny and refute allegations contained in the D.U.P. document in that they are in contravention of the Mitchell principles.

Both parties are represented at these negotiations on the basis of the votes cast for the respective parties in the Forum Election on May 30th this year. These votes were cast in support of the Ulster Democratic Party and the Progressive Unionist Party and not in the name of the Combined Loyalist Military Command.

We have been referred to by participants in these negotiations as 'paramilitary parties'. The U.D.P. and P.U.P. are both constitutional political organisations, committed to the pursuit of political objectives through solely democratic and peaceful methods. Both parties reject the furtherance of political aims through violence.

The P.U.P. and U.D.P., while offering upon request a political analysis to the C.L.M.C., and exerting influence where possible, have no authority over their policies or activities. The facility we offer is a voluntary one. The decision by the C.L.M.C. to either accept or reject such analysis is beyond our control or responsibility. We have no input into internal Paramilitary disciplinary matters.

We have never sought to support acts or threats of violence, and the role both parties have played individually and collectively during this current peace process is clear demonstration of our commitment to democratic methods.

Our analysis to the C.L.M.C. contributed to their announcement of a universal cease-fire on 13th October 1994 and since that time we have consistently argued that the continuance of that cease-fire is in the best interests of all the people of Northern Ireland and even today we implore the Loyalist paramilitary groupings to maintain a non-combative mode.

Both the P.U.P. and the U.D.P. subscribed honestly and sincerely to the six 'Mitchell Principles' in this room and before all other participants. We re-affirm now our absolute and total commitment to the principles of democracy today.

We resolutely oppose the use or threat of violence from whatever source.