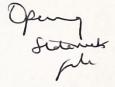
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FROM: JULIE MAPSTONE

4 SEPTEMBER 1996

cc PS/Sir John Wheeler (L&B)	_	В
PS/Michael Ancram (L&B)	2 B	В
PS/PUS (L&B)	_	В
PS/Sir David Fell	-	В
Mr Thomas	-	В
Mr Legge	-	В
Mr Steele	-	В
Mr Bell	-	В
Mr Leach	-	В
Mr Watkins	-	В
Mr Stephens	_	В
Mr Hill	-	В
Mr Lavery		В
Mr Maccabe		В
Mr Beeton	-	В
Mrs Collins	-	В
Ms Bharucha		
Mr Whysall	-	В

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (L&B) -B

TALKS: HMG OPENING STATEMENT

HMG OPENING STATEMENT ON DECOMMISSIONING

I attach a revised version of the HMG opening statement for the opening plenary. This has been updated and amended from the version circulated on 10 June, and approved then by Ministers. Our handling plan aims for early deployment of such opening statements.

2. This Opening Statement is intended to be an orthodox account of HMG's approach to the negotiations. It does not, at this stage therefore, incorporate the 'warmer' language on the Union which has been put to the Prime Minister. That has get to be approved by the Prime Minister and may be something which he would prefer to save for his own use.

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3. I also attach the draft plenary statement on decommissioning. this was previously circulated as an annex to Mr Stephens' paper of 7 August, Decommissioning - Avoiding Another Impasse. unlikely we shall reach this next week, and some amendment may yet be required in the light of negotiations next week - but Ministers might like to know that this statement is also ready for deployment if necessary.

JULIE MAPSTONE

4 SEPTEMBER 1996

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