

Box

FROM: MRS D E McNALLY  
Political Development Team  
24 September 1996

cc Mr Hill (B&L) - B  
Mr Whysall (B&L) - B

PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B

TALKS: 23 SEPTEMBER 1996

There was no separate Summary Record of yesterday's discussions at Castle Buildings since the full note was available this morning. You may wish to forward the attached to Mr Holmes at No 10 in order to keep him abreast of developments.

2. I also attach a draft covering letter for your signature.

(Signed)

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CB Ext 22282

DRAFT

J Holmes Esq  
Private Secretary  
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LONDON  
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24 September 1996

LETTER FOR SIGNATURE BY PS/SECRETARY OF STATE

Attached is a summary of yesterday's business in the talks.

3. The determination of the two Governments on the Alliance Party's claim against the DUP and DUP was duly circulated and an opportunity for debate will be provided at the next plenary.



TALKS: 23 SEPTEMBER 1996: PROGRESS REPORT

The focus of the day was predominantly on decommissioning, where the UUP remained concerned about the Irish Government's willingness to proceed speedily and openly, and the Irish Government expressed grave doubts about the UUP's determination to do a deal on decommissioning at all. The trilateral which concluded the day showed the UUP on the back foot seeking to explain what it was they needed in order to make the move out of opening plenary, and not managing to do so clearly (perhaps deliberately). The two Governments agreed to produce a paper outlining their proposals for resolving the issues for the UUP.

2. Discussion in plenary focussed on the confidentiality issue, where after an hour's fruitless initial debate (where talks participants gave the school fourth form debating society a good name), the parties engaged sensibly and productively for much of the second half of the plenary debate until finally Unionists started to berate the two Governments over the potential passage of talks documents to Sinn Fein. The Independent Chairmen are to produce a paper about the handling of confidentiality for the next plenary.

3. The determination of the two Governments on the Alliance Party's claim against the UUP and DUP was duly circulated and an opportunity for debate will be provided at the next plenary.

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

TALKS: 23 SEPTEMBER

SUMMARY

The focus of the day was predominantly on decommissioning, where the UUP remained concerned about the Irish Government's willingness to proceed speedily and openly, and the Irish Government expressed grave doubts about the UUP's determination to do a deal on decommissioning at all. The trilateral which concluded the day showed the UUP on the back foot seeking to explain what it was they