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FROM: D J R HILL  
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM  
11 September 1996

Dr Smyth

cc

PS/Secretary of State (B&L)  
PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L)  
PS/Michael Ancram (B&L)  
PS/Malcolm Moss (B)  
PS/Baroness Denton (B)  
PS/PUS (B&L)  
PS/Sir David Fell  
Mr Thomas o/r  
Mr Legge  
Mr Bell  
Mr Leach (B)  
Mr Watkins  
Mr Steele  
Mr Wood (B&L)  
Mr Beeton  
Mr Stephens  
Mr Lavery  
Mr Maccabe  
Mr Perry  
Mr Priestly  
Mr Whysall (B&L)  
Ms Mapstone  
Ms Bharucha  
Mr O'Mahony, TAU  
Mr Campbell Bannerman  
Mr Lamont, RID  
HMA, Dublin  
Mr Clarke, Dublin  
Mr Westmacott, Washington\*  
Ms Collins, Cabinet Office\*

\* via IPL

TALKS: MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 1996

1. I hope it will be helpful to offer a small but perhaps significant clarification of your record of Monday's business.
2. The "sub-committee concept" which the UUP has agreed to drop (paragraphs 1 and 13) is the sub-committee which they had originally proposed should meet during the opening plenary to conduct the opening plenary's "address" to decommissioning. They now seem to have accepted the SDLP line that this would enable the DUP and UKUP

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to stall progress and write in all kinds of decommissioning pre-conditions before the three strands were launched. Instead, they propose to proceed on the basis that they will seek understandings on decommissioning from the two Governments (especially in relation to the legislation) in "trilaterals" which would take place as it were in the margins of the plenary's address to decommissioning.

3. The terminological confusion on this point, which has been rampant throughout the Talks, arises from the extant proposal from the two Governments that once the address has been completed, by whatever means, a decommissioning sub-committee should be established to take forward substantive discussion of the decommissioning issue alongside the three strands. The unionists, having previously rejected this sub-committee, do now seem to see a role for it, which mightily cheered up the Irish for whom it has always been a key part of the "exit strategy" from the opening plenary.

(Signed)

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