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FROM: JULIE MAPSTONE
Talks Secretariat
16 September 1996

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B
PS/Sir John Wheeler (B, L & DFP) - B
PS/Michael Ancram (B&L) - B
PS/Malcolm Moss (DHSS, DOE & L) - B
PS/Baroness Denton (DED, DANI & L) - B
PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Sir David Fell - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Legge - B
Mr Leach (B&L) - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Wood (B&L) - B
Mr Beeton - B
Mr Priestly - B
Mr Hill (B&L) - B
Mr Lavery - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Perry - B
Mr Stephens - B
Ms Bharucha - B
Ms Mapstone - B
Mr Whysall (B&L) - B
Mr Holmes, No 10 - M
Ms Collins, Cab Off (via IPL) - B
Mr Dickinson, TAU - B
Mr Lamont, RID FCO - B
HMA Dublin - B
Mr Westmacott (via RID) - B
Mr Campbell-Bannerman - B
Mrs McNally (B&L) - B

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

SUMMARY: TALKS, 16 SEPTEMBER, 5.00 PM

The DUP allegations of last week against the Loyalist parties were effectively wrapped up in a plenary session this morning, at which parties were given a 2-hour opportunity to comment on the determination of the complaint by the two governments, given last Wednesday. In the event the session was over in less than 1 hour, the UUP, DUP and UKUP being the only parties which took the

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opportunity to comment. There was a reference by Mr McCartney to the possibility of a judicial review of the determination, but nothing further is known on this at present.

The handling of the Alliance complaint of breaches of the Mitchell principles was discussed at meetings with the Irish side and the Chairmen. The Alliance submission and the UUP and DUP rebuttals (the Loyalist parties choosing to stand by their earlier rebuttal) were circulated in the afternoon. The DUP has suggested that the complaint against Mr McCrea is sub judice, and legal advice is being sought on this tomorrow. A debate, following the procedural pattern adopted for the DUP allegations, will be held in plenary on Wednesday to discuss them.

Progress was made on establishing a way forward on the UUP decommissioning proposals. It was agreed with the Irish that the UUP will be shown the HMG draft decommissioning legislation tomorrow morning on a confidential basis, with an official present to explain technical details. A similar bilateral on the Irish legislation will follow immediately. In neither case will the UUP be permitted to take a copy of the draft legislation away with them, nor will possible amendments be accepted.

On Wednesday afternoon a trilateral meeting (both governments, and the UUP) is scheduled to allow the UUP to raise any policy issues relating to the legislation. Before this takes place, the UUP will seek to hold a bilateral with the SDLP. By the end of Wednesday this week, it will be evident whether we have a likely path out of the decommissioning impasse, which will leave the way clear to establishing a timetable and work agenda for decommissioning. Draft papers on these issues were discussed with the Irish side at a lunchtime meeting, at which some textual changes were introduced by the Irish. Further discussion, particularly on the joint proposal which constitutes the exit strategy, will take place after Wednesday's trilateral.

(Signed)

JULIE MAPSTONE

AB TALKS 2414