

From: Veronica Sutherland
Date: 2 September 1996

To: Mr Thomas

cc: PS/SofS
PS/Michael Ancram
PS/Sir J Wheeler
PS/PUS
PS/Sir D Fell
Mr Bell
Mr Legge
Mr Watkins
Mr Hill
Mr Maccabe
Mr Stephens
Mr Wood
Mr Lamont, RID
Mr Budd, Cabinet Office } by fax
Mr Holmes, No. 10

NBPM

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ph 2/9.

THE PEACE PROCESS: IRISH GOVERNMENT ATTITUDES AFTER THE HOLIDAY BREAK

1. Further to my minute of 28 August, I spoke to Sean Donlon this morning to ask whether the Irish Government had thought further about the issues we discussed last week. He said that discussions were still in progress and that there would be a meeting tomorrow afternoon of the Northern Ireland Sub Committee of the Cabinet. Sean and I have therefore arranged to meet on Wednesday morning to discuss the outcome.

2. Meanwhile, Donlon said that the Taoiseach had had a 20 minute phone call with David Trimble over the week-end, information he asked me to treat with discretion. While the Taoiseach was glad to have had the contact with Trimble, he had found it a discouraging conversation as Trimble had been extremely negative about the possibility of progress in the all-party talks. Trimble himself was trying to talk to John Hume to see if they could agree on a way forward. The Taoiseach is also trying to contact John Hume and members of the Alliance Party.

(Signed)
Veronica Sutherland
AMBASSADOR

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