

525/96

FROM: D A LAVERY
CENT SEC
24 SEPTEMBER 1996

DESK IMMEDIATE

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L)
PS/PUS (B&L)
PS/Sir David Fell (o/r)
Mr Thomas (o/r)
Mr Leach (B&L)
Mr Watkins
Mr Bell
Mr Hill (B&L)
Mr Stephens (B&L)
Mr Maccabe
Mr Whysall
✓ Mr Jagelman

PS/Michael Ancram (B&L)

CONFIDENTIALITY

1. This is to offer a possible alternative draft of paragraph 4 of the 'Points of Agreement' circulated by the Office of the Independent Chairmen for this afternoon's plenary session.
2. There was a measure of agreement that paragraph 4 was too tightly drawn and could have the effect of inhibiting the ability of the participants to make public statements of their own policy and positions in relation to the negotiations.
3. The Chairmen invited the participants to submit alternative drafts of paragraph 4 by close-of-play today.
4. We may wish to offer the Chairmen something along the lines of the attached draft.

[Signed: DAL]

D A LAVERY

JC/TALKS/2455

Suggested alternative draft paragraph 4 of 'Points of Agreement' on confidentiality proposed by British Government.

4. Documents produced by participants in the course of the negotiations will be subject to the rule of confidentiality except that it will be permissible for any participant to make use in public of any statement of its policy, or to respond in public to any enquiry relating to its position, on any matter relating to the negotiations. Provided that in doing so the policy or position of any other participant would not be made public.

Mr. Michael Amos (SAL)
Mr. Secretary of State (SAL)

CONFIDENTIALITY DEBATE

1. This is to provide some briefing material for use at the second Primary session on the principle of confidentiality.

2. The paper on confidentiality by the Independent Chairman is attached. It is, for the most part, unobjectionable. However, paragraph 4 may require further consideration as it could prevent participants making use of their own papers which they had produced in the course of the negotiations. It would seem preferable that the participants should retain "ownership" of original material stating their own and not other participants' position.

(Signed: SAL)

B. A. LAMONT