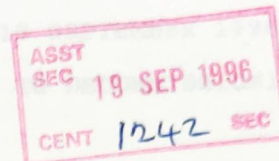


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FROM: D J R HILL  
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM  
19 September 1996



DESK IMMEDIATE

Mr Bell

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L)  
PS/Michael Ancram (B&L)  
PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L)  
PS/PUS (B&L)  
PS/Sir David Fell  
Mr Thomas o/r  
Mr Legge  
Mr Leach (B)  
Mr Steele  
Mr Watkins  
Mr Perry  
Mr Stephens  
Mr Priestly  
Mr Maccabe  
Mr Lavery  
Mr Whysall (B&L)  
Ms Mapstone  
Ms Bharucha  
Mr Campbell Bannerman  
Mr Lamont, RID  
HMA, Dublin  
Mr Clarke, Dublin  
Ms Collins, Cabinet Office

**REVISED "JOINT PROPOSAL"**

1. Could you please transmit the attached paper, via your colleagues, to Dublin as soon as possible. (The recasting has come out reasonably well apart from the second part of the second indent, which may in fact be redundant anyway; but we can pick such drafting points up later.)
2. It is a development of the Irish draft Joint Proposal of 19 September recast as a statement of conclusions intended to encapsulate the two Governments' exit strategy from the plenary address to decommissioning.
3. In contrast to the approach the Irish have described to you, our Ministers believe it is essential to present something on these lines to the UUP on Monday to test whether a deal can be struck, but look forward to discussing the handling of the trilateral with Irish Ministers on Monday.

(Signed)

D J R HILL  
Political Development Team  
CB 22317

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BRITISH DRAFT: 19 SEPTEMBER 1996 (17.45)

SUGGESTED CONCLUSIONS TO THE PLENARY ADDRESS TO DECOMMISSIONING  
[to be tabled by the two Governments]

The participants in the multi-party talks, meeting in plenary session:

- confirm their commitment to all aspects of the report of the International Body including their support for the compromise approach to decommissioning set out in paragraphs 34 and 35, which state:

"The parties should consider an approach under which some decommissioning would take place during the process of all-party negotiations, rather than before or after as the parties now urge. Such an approach represents a compromise. If the peace process is to move forward, the current impasse must be overcome. While both sides have been adamant in their positions, both have repeatedly expressed the desire to move forward. This approach provides them that opportunity.

In addition, it offers the parties an opportunity to use the process of decommissioning to build confidence one step at a time during negotiations. As progress is made on political issues, even modest mutual steps on decommissioning could help create the atmosphere needed for further steps in a progressive pattern of mounting trust and confidence".

- note the commitment of the two Governments to work with all other participants to implement all aspects of the Report and the commitment of the political parties, for their part, to work fully with the Governments in this task.
- note that as an important step towards implementation, each Government will publish [at the conclusion of the opening Plenary session] draft enabling legislation which will provide the basis for giving effect to the International Body's recommendations on the modalities of decommissioning. Subject to any comments which the committee referred to below may have they intend to introduce legislation in their respective Parliaments in the forthcoming session so that as progress is made on political issues the legislative framework is enacted by [Christmas 1996].

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- agree to work constructively and in good faith to secure the implementation of all aspects of the Report of the International Body, including its proposed compromise approach to decommissioning, in the context of an inclusive and dynamic process in which mutual trust and confidence is built as progress is made on all the issues of concern to all participants. The reality for all present and future participants is that progress in the Talks will only be possible on this basis.
- agree to establish a committee [IRL: charged with working] to secure implementation of all aspects of the International Body's Report on this basis. The Committee will comprise representatives of all the participants and be chaired by the Independent Chairman of the Plenary. Its membership will also include the Chairman designate of the Independent Commission proposed in the report of the International Body and which is provided for in the draft legislation. The two Governments will make available to the Committee a range of relevant technical expertise. The Committee will follow the attached working agenda (Appendix 1). It will first meet on [7/14 October].
- agree that a plenary session should be convened in [December] to take stock of progress in the negotiations as a whole, including the work of the committee. At that meeting, all participants would review the position, and the progress which has been made across the entire spectrum of the negotiations. It would also be possible, under the provisions of paragraph 12 of the rules of procedure, for the plenary to be convened specifically to enable the Independent Chairman to brief participants on the progress made by the committee.
- agree that the adoption of the above proposals should conclude the address to decommissioning by the opening Plenary and that the negotiations should now be advanced, with the opening of substantive discussions in the three strands on [7/14 October].

Note: On this basis, following the completion of other business, including the agreement of the comprehensive agenda, statements by participants, and final remarks by the Independent Chairman, the opening Plenary session would be concluded. Under the agreed rules of procedure the appropriate Chairmen will then convene meetings of the negotiations within the three strands and the proposed Committee on Decommissioning, opening on [7/14 October] and proceeding in parallel.

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COMMITTEE ON DECOMMISSIONING  
WORKING AGENDA

1. Governments' legislative proposals: consideration of draft Bills and ongoing review of progress towards enactment.
2. Conditions necessary for decommissioning: consideration of the circumstances in which mutual decommissioning would be expected to occur.
3. Modalities: preparation of a detailed draft decommissioning scheme or schemes and determining the precise role of the Independent Commission in relation to each scheme.
4. Role of other confidence-building measures: consideration of those other aspects of the International Body's report which participants may wish to raise in this format.
5. Other arrangements necessary to secure implementation of the report: finalisation of a detailed decommissioning scheme, including commenting on the necessary subordinate legislation.
6. Review of implementation: ongoing review of implementation of all aspects of the Report.

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