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FROM: D J R HILL
CPL DIVISION
8 AUGUST 1996

cc: PS/Michael Ancram (L&B) -B
PS/Sir John Wheeler (L&B) -B
PS/PUS (L&B) -B
PS/Sir David Fell -B
Mr Legge -B
Mr Thomas -B
Mr Bell -B
Mr Leach -B
Mr Ray -B
Mr Steele -B
Mr Watkins -B
Mr Wood (L&B) -B
Mr Stephens -B
Mr Maccabe -B
Mr Lavery -B
Mr Beeton -B
Mr Perry -B
Mr Whysall -B
Ms Checksfield -B
Ms Mapstone -B
Mr Holmes, No 10 -B
Mr Budd (Cab Office) -B
Mr Westmacott, HME Washington
(via RID) -B
HMA Dublin -B
Mr Lamont, RID -B

① a me
② JEH ok
This was the paper I mentioned
the evening - No Minister has
approved it as a basis for further
planning.

6025/8

PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - B

RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS: OUTLINE HANDLING PLAN

I attach a possible outline handling plan for the resumption of the talks. It builds on Mr Stephens' submission of 7 August on the handling of decommissioning and should also be read with his submission of 26 July on handling any new IRA ceasefire, which the Secretary of State discussed last week.

2. The paper identifies some possible objectives which HMG might seek to achieve in the first couple of weeks after 9 September but it also sets out a number of steps which might be taken in support of those objectives in the period before 9 September. It would

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therefore be helpful to know that the Secretary of State was - subject to developments, including in Derry - generally content for us to proceed to plan on this basis. In particular, would he be content for us to work towards

- an Adare in the week beginning 2 September
- meetings, perhaps later that week, with the UUP and if possible the SDLP
- a meeting between the two Government delegations and the Independent Chairmen on the evening of 8 September (depending on the Independent Chairmen's travel plans)

and would he be content for Michael Ancram to pursue the contacts suggested in paragraph 5 during the latter part of August?

(signed)

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