

25. Sep. 1996

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No. 0552 P. 2/3

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FROM: JULIE MAPSTONE
24 September 1996

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B
PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - 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
Mr Whysall (B&L) - B
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
Mr Holmes, No 10

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

TALKS 24 SEPTEMBER 1996 - SUMMARY

Much of the day was spent in bilaterals with the Irish Government, not always wholly good-tempered, discussing the fine detail of the joint paper on the exit strategy: "suggested conclusions from the plenary address to decommissioning". The main point at issue related to how to express the UUP's need for continuity between the Committee on decommissioning and the Verification Commission.

The main Irish difficulties were twofold: they wished to avoid any suggestion that the Commission was being established now in some form or other; and they were suspicious of an assumption which they

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felt lay behind the text that General de Chastelain would chair the Commission as well as Strand 2. These two roles they felt would not be compatible.

After a number of attempts, a text was agreed in the early evening which the Irish would put overnight to their Ministers. If it is agreed, the Secretary of State will meet Mr Trimble tomorrow afternoon and show him the text. This could make the way clear for a trilateral next Monday.

At a flat plenary session in the afternoon, there was a further desultory debate on confidentiality of talks proceedings, which illustrated well the need to make progress and clear a path to substantive negotiations with all speed.

Signed:

J MAPSTONE