

MR ALLAN

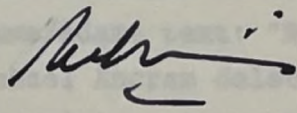
My has comments on the text
which finally merged. No further
action on this
Edward
Grateful if you could deal
this 24/9
RWS
20/9

NI FOLLOW-UP

1. We spoke earlier this morning about the Northern Ireland Secretary's likely handling plan for the approach from Hume. I attach a copy of a note which sets out the NIO's thinking at official level: as you will see, when the Northern Ireland Secretary has approved it (expected later today), it is envisaged that a note will be sent to John Holmes.

2. I have no real difficulty with what is proposed, although you will see that the approach to Trimble might now take place as early as next Monday, 23 September. You will also note that the treatment of the Information Strategy (last paragraph of draft letter to John Holmes) suggests that this will be handled somewhat downstream. I have suggested to the NIO that at the very least, a media handling plan for this exercise needs to be cleared with you before steps are taken which could reach the ears of the media.

3. More generally, the revisions to the draft text seem to me to be consistent with the discussion at yesterday's meeting. The NIO is clearing them, as appropriate, with other Departments.


RICHARD WILLIAMS

20 September 1996