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From: TED HALLETT
 Political Development Team
 4 February 1997

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&L) - B
 Mr Steele - B
 Mr Leach - B
 Mr Bell - B
 Mr Watkins - B
 Mr Stephens - B
 Mr Wood (B&L) - B
 Mr Beeton - B
 Mr Brooker - B
 Mr Hill (B&L) - B
 Mr Lavery - B
 Mr Maccabe - B
 Mr Perry - B
 Mr Priestly - B
 Ms Bharucha - B
 Ms Mapstone - B
 Mr Whysall (B&L) - B
 Mr Sanderson, Cab Off (via IPL) - B
 Mr Dickinson, TAU - B
 Mr Lamont, RID FCO - B
 HMA Dublin - B
 Miss C Byrne, TPU, HO (via IPL) - B
 Mr Campbell Bannerman - B
 Mr Westmacott (via RID) - B
 Mrs McNally (B&L) - B
 Mr Holmes, No 10

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NOTE FOR THE RECORD

TALKS SUMMARY: 4 FEBRUARY 1997

The British delegation had bilateral meetings with the Irish Government, the UDP and the PUP and a trilateral with the Independent Chairmen and the Irish Government. There was a Plenary Session from 12.10 to 14.40.

The day's proceedings provided further confirmation that there was little prospect of agreement on decommissioning before the election,

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but that no party wished to take the lead in proposing an early suspension of the Talks. There was general agreement, therefore, to give the Independent Chairmen a proactive role in investigating, through bilaterals, the prospects for progress.

At the meeting with the Irish delegation, the management of the process over the next two to three weeks towards a soft landing was explored. A draft Chairmen's statement (attached to Mr Stephen's note of 3 February) was agreed, subject to amendments to make clear that it was concerned only with the period up to a suspension of the Talks.

At a trilateral meeting with the two Governments, the Chairmen indicated that they were content to undertake a proactive role with the parties to investigate ways of taking the process forward, and would speak to Plenary along the lines of the amended British draft.

The meetings with the UDP and PUP, confirmed that they wished to sustain the process as long as possible and that they favoured the proposed role for the Chairmen.

At the Plenary Session most parties indicated support for a proactive role for the Chairmen. The UKUP and DUP expressed reservations about this approach, but did not rule it out. The Plenary was adjourned to 10.00 on Wednesday 12 February to allow the Chairmen to consult with the parties.

(Signed)

TED HALLET

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