

08-JUL-1997 12:00 6621019 FROM 6621019 SEC D/TAOISEACH TO 00441718399044 P.01



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Roinn an Taoisigh  
Department of the Taoiseach

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FOR: MR. Jonathan Powell

FROM: Paddy Teahan

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**Suggested Amendments**  
**(words added underlined)**

**Page 1, Para. 3, Final Sentence**

So, while the Government will do all it can to ensure its approach is clearly and fully understood so as to achieve this objective, it will not be drawn into open-ended exchanges with any party intended to delay the timetable.

**Page 3, Para. 2, Second Sentence**

The Prime Minister set out our position clearly in his House of Commons Statement on 25 June. *[Answer to VP]*

**Page 3, fourth line from end:**

Omit "set out by the Mitchell Report" and substitute "... on the basis of the implementation of all aspects of the Mitchell..." etc.

**Page 4, Para 1, Third sentence**

That is why, if a party demonstrably dishonours its commitment to the six Mitchell fundamental principles of democracy and non-violence, it is no longer entitled to participate.



**Page 4, Para. 2, First Sentence**

We look for a benign mutual dynamic on all the issues in the negotiations, as the Mitchell Report envisages, so that as progress is made on political issues, confidence building issues and decommissioning, this can create growing mutual trust and confidence on all sides.

**Page 4, last para., second sentence**

After "can be met" add "(x) and for its own part it will, in cooperation with the Irish Government and the other participants, make every effort to ensure this is achieved. The calendar within the negotiations is yet to be agreed among the participants, as is also the case with the agenda. However, on this latter issue I would point to the agreed rules of procedure, and in particular paragraph 18, which ensures that the agenda must reflect the concerns of all participants".

**Page 5, Para. 1, Final Sentence**

But if Sinn Fein following an unequivocal ceasefire, joins the negotiations, then it will also have the opportunity to raise and explore these important issues with others in that context.

**Page 5, last para:**

(y) After "public requires" add: "This principle will also be applied in considering the security classification and conditions of prisoners in the Special Secure



Units, in the review which would be conducted consequent on any significant diminution of the security threat."

**Page 6, Add at end of First para.**

A particular concern is recognised to be the position of long-term prisoners, who have served over 20 years, in Special Secure Units, and who have applied for transfers. (2)

**Page 6, Add as new Second para.**

(44) In the case of four prisoners it is expected that the Home Secretary will very shortly set their tariffs. These prisoners have also applied for transfer to the Irish jurisdiction and the setting of the tariffs should enable early progress to be made on their applications subject to the provisions of the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons.

**Page 6, Add as new Third para.**

(32) The British Government's position on equality issues and on equal treatment for the Irish culture and identity is set out in para. 19 of the Joint Framework Document. We will facilitate education through the medium of Irish, where there is the demand for it in accordance with objective criteria.

**Page 6, Add as new Fourth para.**



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Both Governments would encourage the Independent Chairmen to hold early meetings with Sinn Fein in the period in question, so that Sinn Fein could be fully appraised of developments in the Talks to date and of the commitments and procedures all participants are required to accept.

**Page 6, In existing Para 2**

Omit the phrase "my understanding is that you regard these as essentially "housekeeping" details" and continue the sentence, "I can confirm etc."