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From Tony Beeton
15 July 1997

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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH SINN FEIN

Yesterday I received a call from Siobhan O'Hanlon with a request for a copy of the Prime Minister's weekend speech to the Labour Women and Youth Conference at Bournemouth. Quentin Thomas subsequently suggested that it would be helpful to add a transcript of Dr Mowlam's Friday interview with CNN which had touched on confidence-building matters.

2. I telephoned Siobhan O'Hanlon at about 2.15 pm today and spoke as instructed.
3. I told her that I was sorry for the delay but it had taken me some time to get a full copy of the speech. I explained that I would also be faxing to her a transcript of Dr Mowlam's Friday interview with CNN which she might not have seen. I was adding this at Quentin Thomas' suggestion. One of the matters Martin McGuinness had raised during their telephone conversation last Friday was confidence building and Dr Mowlam's interview - which had been given before the telephone call and which I emphasised therefore was not as a result of it - had included a passage on that topic.
4. O'Hanlon was grateful and said that she had also remembered another question which Martin had wanted to raise. It was a further piece of clarification, she said, relating to the International Commission. There had been some previous references to an

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Independent Commission, was this the same thing? I said that it was. [Comment: the doubt appears to arise because where the Aide Memoire says *agreement on decommissioning seems likely to include a commitment by each participant to work constructively and in good faith to implement all aspects of the Mitchell Report; an independent commission...* etc. the July 9th letter says that *The joint proposals mean that substantive political negotiations get under way at the same time as the International Commission and the Liaison sub-Committee on Decommissioning start their work.*] She seemed satisfied.

signed

Tony Beeton