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*file
June 4/6.*

FROM: JULIE MAPSTONE
IPL
3 JUNE 1997

cc - via E-mail

PS/Secretary of State (B&L)
PS/Mr Murphy (DFP,B&L)
PS/Mr Ingram (DED,B&L)
PS/Mr Worthington (DENI,DHSS &L)
PS/Lord Dubs (DANI,DOE &L)
PS/PUS (B&L)
PS/Sir David Fell
Mr Thomas (B&L)
Mr Steele
Mr Leach
Mr Bell
Mr Watkins
Mr Stephens
Mr Wood (B&L)
Mr Beeton
Mr Brooker
Mr Hill
Mr Lavery
Mr Maccabe
Mr Perry
Mr Priestly
Ms Bharucha
Ms Mapstone
Mr Whysall (B&L)
Mr Sanderson, Cab Off (via IPL)
Mr Dickinson, TAU
Mr Lamont, RID FCO
HMA Dublin
Miss C Byrne, TPU, HO (via IPL)
Mr Warner
Ms Healy
Mr Westmacott (via RID)
Mrs McNally (B&L)
Mr Holmes, No 10

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

SUMMARY: TALKS: 3 JUNE 1997

A late start to the reconvened talks with the plenary rescheduled to 2pm to accommodate those returning from South Africa.

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The arrival of the Secretary of State at lunchtime enabled a planning meeting to be held at 1pm with both the Chairmen and the Irish, at which Senator Mitchell put forward his proposals for the conduct of the afternoon's plenary. It was agreed that all participants, starting with the two Governments, would be allowed to make a statement on their current assessment of the talks after the three month break. Senator Mitchell warned that Mr McCartney may try to disrupt proceedings in protest at the meetings held between HMG and Sinn Fein, and would refuse to participate further unless assurances were given of no further meetings.

He also said it was likely that Alliance would raise the issue of the loyalist parties' possible breach of the Mitchell principles. Senator Mitchell had suggested to Lord Alderdice that it should be raised orally at the plenary, and that the Chairman would then suggest meetings between Alliance and the PUP and UDP, after which Alliance would decide whether they wished to make a formal representation. Lord Alderdice agreed to this approach.

The plan for the next week was also discussed. The main task for the two Governments was to reach an agreed common position on the way forward on decommissioning. In the meantime the Chairmen would continue their meetings with all parties. Senator Mitchell, who appeared to have returned determined to apply pressure for the forward momentum of the talks, asked about the prospects for the two Governments agreeing a way forward by the end of next week. The Tanaiste replied the prospects were good; if a new Irish Government looked likely, they would be brought in to the process immediately to ensure a smooth handover.

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The Plenary

At the Plenary, the **Chairman** welcomed everyone back to the reconvened talks, and gave a particular congratulations and welcome to the Secretary of State and Mr Murphy.

The round of statements began with those from the Secretary of State and the Tanaiste (copies of both texts being circulated). The **Secretary of State** said that she wanted to see the launch of substantive political negotiations within a matter of weeks, and pointed out that the quickening pace of constitutional reform in the rest of the United Kingdom provided a positive context in which to make real progress. She referred only briefly to meetings with Sinn Fein, and urged restraint on loyalists.

The **Tanaiste** spoke of approaching a defining moment, and expressed confidence that any Irish Government would follow a broadly similar path. Both Governments pressed the importance of reaching agreement on decommissioning.

Contributions from the parties produced no real surprises. Alliance and the two loyalist parties accepted the Chairman's suggestion of a meeting, to be held early next week. **Mr McCartney** made his - lengthy - contribution in his proper turn, and although saying the UKUP would not participate in plenary sessions while HMG were conducting meetings with Sinn Fein, it was a much more muted protest than had been expected. **Mr Trimble**, like McCartney, referred to the "parallel talks" taking place with Sinn Fein and said they must already have gone beyond the remit envisaged for them by the Prime Minister in his 16 May speech, and should not go on. He ended on a positive note however, suggesting that the Chairmen conduct a

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stocktaking exercise with all parties to resolve decommissioning and to ensure that the settlement train really leaves the station.

The view of most people as they left the plenary session was a somewhat rueful "business as usual". Nevertheless, the atmosphere was generally positive.

The plenary was adjourned until 2pm on Tuesday.

(Signed)

JULIE MAPSTONE

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