



From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY  
CONFIDENTIAL

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
STORMONT CASTLE  
BELFAST BT4 3ST

Tel. Belfast (01232) 520700

*Faxed*  
*12/9/97*

*File*

John Holmes Esq  
Private Secretary to the  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON  
SW1A 2AA

*12* September 1997

*Dear John,*

Thank you for your letter of yesterday, "Conversation with David Trimble, 11 September". My Minister wanted to make a number of points.

Media Coverage

On presentation, I attach a synopsis of what happened in presentational terms yesterday, which has been sent to Mr Trimble, following your conversation with Paul Murphy last night.

RUC

On RUC reform, the confusion seems to have occurred from the title of "the Northern Ireland Police Service", given to a new organisation, consisting of both RUC officers and their civilian support staff, formed when the civilian support staff move under the management of the Chief Constable.

The Prime Minister should be aware that there has been extensive consultation, with the Royal Ulster Constabulary itself, with the Police Staff Associations, with the Police Authority (of which Mr Empey is a member) and there has been no indication of unease about this proposal. Indeed, it accords with a suggestion

CONFIDENTIAL

RL/HOLMES/BB





CONFIDENTIAL

made by the Police Authority; and with the desire of the Police Federation to move towards a "service" rather than a "force" ethos, for the policing service.

In essence, Mr Trimble may be assured categorically that the name of the Royal Ulster Constabulary is not going to be changed; what is going to happen is the addition of a "by-line", in recognition of the transfer to the direction and control of the Chief Constable of those civilian staff (some 3,500) who currently work in direct support of the police.

#### Political Development

The Prime Minister is clearly playing David Trimble very successfully but Paul Murphy remains concerned that the deal is not yet sufficiently explicit and detailed to secure Irish agreement to deploy the proposed joint statement or to establish the Independent Commission on 15 September as proposed.

You may wish to test this obliquely with Teahon but our own assessment is that the Irish will be looking for firm assurances that the UUP will (not necessarily on Monday, but certainly next week) vote for all the detailed propositions set out in the draft procedural motion. (I attach an updated version, amended to reflect the emerging deal on the Chairmanship of strand two.)

Paul Murphy suggests that the best way forward would be to send this to Trimble on the basis that it is an attempt to reflect the outcome of Wednesday's meeting and, in particular, to move off the decommissioning issue on the basis discussed at that meeting; and that if he is content we will put it to the Irish (who in fact are already signed up to it). Paul Murphy would be happy to discuss detailed points arising from the draft with Trimble if that would be helpful.

CONFIDENTIAL

RL/HOLMES/BB





CONFIDENTIAL

We could if necessary agree to a day or two of detailed negotiation on the terms of the motion at the beginning of next week; but if Trimble could assure the Prime Minister that he would be willing to move forward on something very close to this basis it would maximise the prospects for securing Irish agreement to the publication of the proposed statement on Sunday.

Looking ahead to Monday, if there is still uncertainty about the UUP position the Irish may want us to hold to the joint commitment to launch substantive negotiations on 15 September, if necessary on the basis of "Plan B". Our best chance of buying time in those circumstances will be to table the draft procedural motion at the plenary (2pm) as a basis for consideration over the following 24 hours or so. It would be desirable if Trimble had at least seen the draft motion in advance and preferably had an opportunity to shape it.

#### Chairmanship

On the Chairmanship point, it would be helpful to have confirmation that (as the Prime Minister agreed with Senator Mitchell) Trimble understands the proposed arrangement, and is prepared tacitly to accept that in practice De Chastelain will cease to play any role at all in relation to strand two. Paul Murphy's fear is that if Trimble does not appreciate this now he will have grounds to accuse the Government of duplicity later.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*R P Lemon*

R P LEMON  
Private Secretary to Paul Murphy MP

CONFIDENTIAL

RL/HOLMES/BB