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FROM: JOHN MCKERVILL
30 October 1996

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

File
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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 Wood (B&L) - B
Mr Beeton - B
Mr Priestly - B
Mr Hill (B&L) - B
Mr Lavery - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Berry - B
Mr Stephens - B
Ms Bharucha - B
Ms Mapstone - B
Mr Whysall (B&L) - B
Ms Collins, Cab Off (via IPL) - B
Mr Dickinson, TAU - B
Mr Lamont, RID FCO - B
HMA Dublin - B
Mr Westmacott (via RID) - B
Mr Campbell-Bannerman - B
Mrs McNally (B&L) - B
Mr Holmes, No 10

TALKS: 30 OCTOBER: SUMMARY

Alliance Party, UUP and British Government made their presentations on decommissioning, thereby concluding the round of initial statements. Plenary was adjourned until Monday at 1300 hrs when there would be broad discussion on all parties' statements and on any other written proposals, which the Chairman requested should be submitted to his staff by noon on Friday for distribution to all delegations. No discernible shift of ground on the UUP's approach to decommissioning.

2. Inconclusive discussion with the Chairmen and Irish Government with the former suggesting that it was time for a new initiative to take forward the negotiations, otherwise they would exhaust themselves. Senator Mitchell hoped that the two Governments in

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early consultation with the UUP and SDLP could reach some form of agreement on decommissioning which would enable the process to move into three stranded negotiations. Both Governments noted the Chairman's remarks but suggested any movement would have to be in light of parties' reactions to today's statements.

3. Under instruction from the Minister for Justice, Irish officials drew to the Chairman's attention DUP briefing of the media on the previous day's arguments over the number of supporting officials permitted in the Conference room.

4. In the afternoon a friendly but inconclusive exchange of views between Michael Ancram (joined later by the Secretary of State) and the Tanaiste. (Recorded separately.)

Signed

JOHN McKERVILL
x 27088

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

TALKS - SUMMARY 29 OCTOBER 1996

The day consisted of a single day session at which the Irish Government and the Labour Party set out their positions on decommissioning. The Irish Minister for Justice, Mrs Owen, read out the statement she previously announced under cover of Mr Hill's note of 28 October and to all, which set out the Irish position in familiar terms consistent with the approach set out in the two Governments' joint paper on decommissioning published on 1 October. The Labour Party presentation emphasised the requirement for decommissioning in advance of an overall political settlement, arguing that no previous conflict had been resolved in this way. The Labour Party, nevertheless, supported the International Body's proposals on decommissioning.

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