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FROM: D J R HILL
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM
14 OCTOBER 1996

13/10
1. Jucifer
2. PA TALKS

cc: PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - B
PS/Michael Ancram (L&B) - B
PS/PUS (L&B) - B
PS/Sir David Fell - B
Mr Thomas (L&B) - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Stephens - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Holmes, No 10
Mr Budd (Cabinet Office)
Mr Lamont, RID - B

HMA Dublin - B

DISCUSSION WITH PADDY TEAHON, 9 OCTOBER
TAOISEACH'S STATEMENT, 10 OCTOBER

I agree with you that (for the reasons set out in Mr Bruton's statement!) there is little merit in pursuing Paddy Teahon's ideas in the context in which he presented them. But if that kind of thinking (especially his representation of the Joint Framework Document) turned out to be SDLP-proof and could be played into the substantive negotiations - on top of all Mr Bruton had to say about consent, current Irish attitudes towards unity and Articles 2 and 3 - it would have a dramatic positive impact.

2. All in all, your report of your conversation with Teahon reinforces my conviction that if we can "park" the decommissioning issue and commence substantive negotiations we could see a significant level of agreement reached quite rapidly in the talks process.

3. Apart from increasing the pressure on Sinn Fein to join the train before it steamed out of sight, that would also provide a much greater incentive on the talks participants to find a mutually acceptable way of handling Sinn Fein's eventual integration into the talks process.

(signed)

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