

Temporarily retained

CONFIDENTIAL

**THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT**

PRIME MINISTER

From: John Holmes
Date: 16 September 1997

cc: Jonathan Powell
Alastair Campbell
Philip Barton

NORTHERN IRELAND

1. Mo rang earlier this evening to give me the latest picture. She and Paul Murphy had just had a long meeting with Trimble and others to try to thrash out the problems on the procedural motion. Despite the fact that we and the Irish had bent over backwards to accept as many of his previous amendments as we could, Trimble had produced several more, which he said were essential. He is also continuing to insist that he cannot accept the deal on joint chairmanship of Strand 2.
2. I attach the letter Trimble sent Mitchell earlier today about the need to exclude Sinn Fein, and the latest drafts of the procedural motion, so that you can see where things stand.
3. Mo will reflect on things overnight and talk to the Irish in the morning. Depending on how this goes, she may then want you to intervene with Trimble again to make clear that he is pushing his luck too far.

She has talked to Montgomery, who has told her that Trimble may well not go into the talks until Monday 29 September. Mo's view is that this is not necessarily a disaster, as long as it is clear that Trimble really will go in then. But how can we be sure, and what events might come before then to throw everything off track?

CONFIDENTIAL

THIS IS A COPY THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (b)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

PREM 49/117 Letter dated 16 sep 1947

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

lx.

Temporarily retained

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT



JOHN HOLMES

CONFIDENTIAL