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cc COS
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● CONVERSATION WITH TRIMBLE

Suggested line to take

1. Impressed by your tactical handling over the past week. Today's plenary "confrontation" marks another useful step.
2. Whatever the result of that, I am very keen to see the substantive negotiations launched very soon. That was the deal we had. It must be achieved before my Party Conference.
3. Would much prefer to see an agreed procedural motion tabled and voted upon on Wednesday. Could table Wednesday and vote Monday, but that might leave you exposed. Might be able to defer tabling and voting until Monday but only if it's clear by Wednesday that we have a deal. [NB: The Taoiseach might agree to this but would almost certainly seek an assurance from the Prime Minister that the two Governments would launch Plan B on Monday if Trimble did not deliver].

Outstanding issues

4. Chairmanship Straight choice:
 1. Finn for Independent Commission, De Chastelain for strand two
 2. De Chastelain for Commission and clear understanding that Mitchell will de facto chair strand two

[NB Mitchell and the Irish are insistent that Trimble should clearly understand this is the deal if De Chastelain is to chair the Commission]

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5. Understand your desire to get plenary to support the two Governments' view that "they would like to see some decommissioning of illegal weapons during the negotiations". But if this is incorporated in the procedural motion we lose the chance to pin Sinn Féin down explicitly to the other commitments in the motion. The Governments stand by their joint statement and would be happy to repeat it.

6. Ready to explore alternative wording or procedural devices. Suggest you discuss with Mo. But we must move to a resolution by Wednesday.

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