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FROM: R P LEMON
PS/Michael Ancram
11 September 1996

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cc PS/Michael Ancram (B&L) - B PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B PS/PUS (B&L) - B PS/Sir David Fell - B Mr Thomas - B Mr Legge - B Mr Bell - B Mr Steele - B Mr Watkins - B Mr Wood (B&L) -B Mr Beeton - B Mr Hill (B&L) - B Mr Lavery - B Mr Perry - B Mr Stephens - B Mr Priestly - B Mr Whysall (B&L) - B Ms Mapstone (B&L) - B Ms Bharucha - B Mr Campbell-Bannerman - B Mr Lamont, RID - B HMA Dublin - B Ms Collins, Cab Office

PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B

THE WAY AHEAD: GETTING ON THE FAST TRACK?

Michael Ancram was grateful for Mr Leach's note of 10 September. The Minister has made the following comments:

"Paragraph 8 - 'I gathered that the trilaterals would happen during the decommissioning debate as would agenda sub-committees. This suggests opening statements after decommissioning.

On Mr Leach's comment, "There could be divisive elements even in our own opening statement: for example, do we mention Frameworks and irritate the UUP, or omit it and prompt nationalist suspicions?' - the Minister has said that he has previously said no to this, as has the Secretary of State.

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Paragraph 9 - The Minister has said that he still thinks it has merit for meeting the Strand 1 concerns of the UUs.

Annex B (assumptions) - 'I gathered the UUs wanted three days for the decommissioning debate if there was not a sub-committee but trilaterals. This may be unavoidable.'

Annex C - on paragraph 3, line 2, the Minister has added after 'implement all' 'respectively appropriate'.

Annex D - on paragraph 2 the Minister has asked could not the agenda be debated during belated opening statements - leaving only 2 items left!"

Signed

R P LEMON PS/Michael Ancram