

CONFIDENTIAL

Talks
Handling Plan
file

FROM: D J R HILL
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM
11 September 1996

✓
McM

PS/Secretary of State (B&L) cc PS/Michael Ancram (B&L)
 PS/PUS (B&L)
 PS/Sir David Fell
 Mr Leach (B)
 Mr Bell
 Mr Watkins
 Mr Steele
 Mr Wood (B&L)
 Mr Stephens
 Mr Lavery
 Mr Maccabe
 Mr Perry
 Mr Priestly
 Mr Whysall (B&L)
 Ms Mapstone
 Ms Bharucha
 Mr Campbell Bannerman
 Mr Lamont, RID
 HMA, Dublin
 Mr Clarke, Dublin
 Ms Collins, Cabinet Office *

* via IPL

TALKS, 11 SEPTEMBER

1. The two Governments need to finalise and present their determination of the DUP representation against the loyalist parties; but our priority should be to get the Irish Government/UUP discussions back on track and consider ways of heading off or minimising the impact of the Alliance representations against the unionist parties.

Timing

2. Senator Mitchell has sought a meeting at 9 am and will want advice on when to summon the plenary. Mr Spring hopes to be back by late morning (after Cabinet). To allow time to deal with the points mentioned in the next two paragraphs and to finalise the draft "judgement" it may be best to aim for plenary not before, say, 12 noon.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Irish Government/UUP discussions

3. A short early meeting with the UUP might be desirable, to impress on Mr Trimble that he is at some risk of losing the potential gains of 9 September.

Alliance representations

4. Are there any further levers we could pull? Mr Ashdown, the Prime Minister? A joint approach from Messrs Hume and Trimble? Having a recent procedural precedent and bearing in mind unionist concerns to set appropriate precedents for any future representations against Sinn Fein there seems little future in asking the Chairman to consider procedural delays.

The judgement

5. We may need to take account of Mr Gleeson's views and Irish official suggestions that the draft should be considerably shorter - concentrating on the last two pages.

6. HOLAB also advise against including paragraphs 4-6 and some other parts of the draft: Mr Whysall has the details.

7. Additional points which occur to me on re-reading the draft

- the important contextual point about the continued existence of the CLMC ceasefire has lost its emphasis;
- the key political point covered in paragraph 11 may need to be put more clearly and decisively;

CONFIDENTIAL

