

Bis.

FROM: D J R HILL  
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT  
30 OCTOBER 1996

1 ~~Dr Smyth~~  
2 Mr McNeill  
3 vs ~~Black~~  
POLITICAL AFFAIR  
DIVISION  
30 OCT 1996  
N.I.O. BELFAST

Mr Watkins  
Mr Stephens  
Mr MacCabe  
Mr Whysall

Please see attached note. May be of some interest.

(signed)

D J R HILL  
30 OCTOBER 1996

I had a short chat with Martha Pope before the plenary during which I had had a talk yesterday with Reg Empey who gave her to understand that the UUP's bottom line was a 3 month delay between any restoration of the ceasefire and Sinn Fein's entry to the negotiations. (I did not have time to probe what impact if any this might have on the UUP's approach to decommissioning).

1. She went on to observe that if this was true it was clear that there would be no ceasefire and that in those circumstances the most optimistic scenario ("it might work out quite well") involved

- Sinn Fein clearly outside the talks process;
- try to keep the loyalists in if at all possible;
- aim to reach a political settlement among the remaining parties, building on the UUP/SDLP axis;
- hope that Sinn Fein/IRA would eventually buy in to that settlement or that they would ultimately be marginalised by the breadth of community support for the settlement.

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

cc: Mr Watkins - B  
Mr Stephens - B  
Mr Maccabe - B  
Mr Whysall - B

1. Mr Thomas - B  
2. Michael Ancram - B  
3. Secretary of State - B

I had a short chat with Martha Pope before the plenary during which she said she had had a talk yesterday with Reg Empey who gave her to understand that the UUP's bottom line was a 3 month delay between any restoration of the ceasefire and Sinn Fein's entry to the negotiations. (I did not have time to probe what impact if any this might have on the UUP's approach to decommissioning).

2. She went on to observe that if this was true it was clear that there would be no ceasefire and that in those circumstances the most optimistic scenario ("it might work out quite well") involved

- Sinn Fein clearly outside the talks process;
- try to keep the Loyalists in if at all possible;
- aim to reach a political settlement among the remaining parties, building on the UUP/SDLP axis;
- hope that Sinn Fein/IRA would eventually buy in to that settlement or that they would ultimately be marginalised by the breadth of community support for the settlement.



3. We did not have time to pursue this but obviously I could hardly have put it better myself. I will try to have a longer chat, to explore and encourage this thinking while making clear that we continue to do what we can to promote an early ceasefire.

(signed) MICHAEL

D J R HILL  
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM  
CB x 22317

FROM: MRS S E McNALLY  
Political Development Team  
30 October 1998

**SECRETARY OF STATE**

"Yes: but this conflicts with Reg to MA this morning - "the time element is not all that it is about". Explore"

**MICHAEL ANCRAM**

"Also there is no indication of how we keep SDLP in if the hurdle is manifestly too high".

**SECRETARY OF STATE**

"Perhaps it will turn on whether we can find a non-pejorative description for the three month period in which they won't be in the talks. So far it beats me".

PS/Michael Ancram (SAS) - B  
PS/Malcolm Moss (DHS, DOR & L) - B  
PS/Baroness Denton (DSD, DAN & L) - B  
PS/PSU (SAL) - B  
Mr Steele - B  
Mr Leach - B  
Mr Bell - B  
Mr Priestly - B  
Mr Hill (SAL) - B  
Mr Lavery - B  
Mr Hancock - B  
Mr Perry - B  
Mr Stephens - B  
Ms Sharucka - B  
Ms Hapstone - B  
Mr Whysall (SAL) - B  
Mr May - B  
Mr McDevill - B  
Dr Smyth - B  
Mr Jagelman - B  
Mr Hallett - B

**NOTE FOR THE RECORD**

**TALKS: LIMIT ON SIZE OF GOVERNMENT TEAMS AND SUPPORTERS**

A 'Convention' was adopted during yesterday's plenary session that the number of supporting officials permitted to attend future plenaries would be limited to 3 at the table and 5 in support for the two Governments, and 3 at the table and 3 in support where the parties are concerned.

Agreement on this followed a complaint from the DUP about the size of the Irish Support Team (which has spilled over into today's supporters). Parties (and consequently the Chairman) may keep a close eye on the size of Government teams. Accordingly if you expect the room and find five 'supporters' seated (including the Chairman) is important either to promptly advise one of them to leave or yourself leave.

POLDEVT/1654