

B/S

FROM: JULIE MAPSTONE
IPL
22 OCTOBER 1996

POLITICAL AFFAIR
DIVISION
22 OCT 1996
10. RELEASE

J. McKERRILL ✓
~~P. SMYTH~~
J. BLACK
A. McVEIGH ✓

- cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B
PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B
PS/Michael Ancram (B&L) - B
PS/Malcolm Moss (DHSS, DOE & L) - B
PS/Baroness Denton (DED, DANI & L) - B
PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Sir David Fell - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr Leach (B&L) - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Wood (B&L) - B
Mr Beeton - B
Mr Priestly - B
Mr Hill (B&L) - B
Mr Lavery - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Perry - B
Mr Stephens - B
Ms Bharucha - B
Ms Mapstone - B
Mr Whysall (B&L) - B
Ms Collins, Cab Off (via IPL) - B
Mr Dickinson, TAU - B
Mr Lamont, RID FCO - B
HMA Dublin - B
Mr Westmacott (via RID) - B
Mr Campbell-Bannerman - B
Mrs McNally (B&L) - B
Mr Holmes, No 10

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

(Signed)

TALKS: SUMMARY 22 OCTOBER 1996

A rather lacklustre day. At the morning plenary there was a lengthy discussion of procedural issues, prompted by pressure from the DUP to refer the handling of the remainder of the discussion of decommissioning to the Business Committee. This was a reprisal of a previous argument on this subject. The counter argument - that the Business Committee has no business to consider until the movement into substantive 3 stranded negotiations - again prevailed. Dr

Paisley then proposed that the Business Committee should be disbanded. As this would require a change in the Rules of Procedure, it is necessary that the Business Committee meets to consider it, and it was arranged that the Business Committee would convene next Monday at 10, with this proposal the only item on the agenda.

At the morning plenary, Dr Paisley completed the DUP's address to decommissioning, and an initial paper from the DUP was circulated. A slight shift in the DUP's position was detectable with the volunteering by Dr Paisley that if a compromise approach was adopted, the initial quantity of arms decommissioned would have to be substantial if it was to permit the moving to substantive negotiations. Subsequent instalments would have to be made according to a pre-determined agenda, and could not be connected to progress at the negotiations.

No other party took the chance to begin their address to decommissioning, although several indicated they would be making contributions during the course of next week.

The issue of Sinn Fein's entry requirements was further discussed at a meeting with the Irish.

The plenary was adjourned until 12 noon on Monday, there being no formal business tomorrow due to the State Opening of Parliament.

(Signed)

J MAPSTONE