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POLITICAL AFFAIR
DIVISION
22 OCT 1996
N.I.O. BELFAST

28.

FROM: JULIE MAPSTONE
IPL
21 OCTOBER 1996

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 Bell - B
Mr Leach (B&L) - 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

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

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

SUMMARY: TALKS, MONDAY 21 OCTOBER 1996

The plenary session continued the address to decommissioning and was devoted to the DUP contribution. Dr Paisley spoke throughout the day's session. His major themes were the change in position of the two Governments on decommissioning, from a demand for prior decommissioning to acceptance of a "consideration" of decommissioning during the process of talks; and the impossibility of dealing with the IRA in a democratic forum, outlining why in his view prior decommissioning is an essential pre-requisite to sitting

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down with Sinn Fein. Along the way he attacked Frameworks, the Mitchell Report and the decommissioning legislation. He continues in the morning plenary tomorrow.

The other main activity was devoted to exploring the issue of Sinn Fein entry requirements with the Irish Government in a lunchtime bilateral. This will be minuted separately, but the two main points were:

- the Irish clearly felt that Adams' talks of a renewed ceasefire was firmly based, and it could be regarded as a serious possibility.
- as a result, they were not happy with the three month waiting period between any new ceasefire and Sinn Fein's entry to talks which we were proposing, fearing this would damage the prospects for a ceasefire.

Further discussions with them on this point will take place tomorrow.

(Signed)

JULIE MAPSTONE

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