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FROM: PS/PUS(L)  
20 March 1996  
MR/65583

cc PS/Secretary of State(L,B&Talks)  
PS/Michael Ancram(L,B&Talks)  
PS/Sir David Fell  
Mr Thomas(L&Talks)  
Mr Bell  
Mr Leach  
Mr Watkins  
Mr Beeton  
Mr DJR Hill  
Mr Maccabe  
Mr Stephens(L&Talks)  
Mr Lamont RID/FCO  
HMA Dublin  
Mr Holmes No.10

DESK IMMEDIATE!!

NOTE FOR THE RECORD  
TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH DR MOWLAM

Dr Mowlam telephoned PUS today briefly, following PUS' briefing of Dr Mowlam and Mr Blair yesterday evening.

2. Dr Mowlam said that she had been reflecting on the SDLP's likely reaction; she saw two items which, if addressed in the Statement or the surrounding events, she thought may prevent the SDLP from walking away:

- (i) It should be made explicit, possibly in the Bill, that the transition from elections to negotiations would be ensured;
- (ii) it should be made implicit that the Unionists would not be allowed to block negotiations over decommissioning.

3. Having said this, Dr Mowlam also said that the SDLP were not acting rationally, but were united and that there was a real danger of them boycotting elections.

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4. Comment Dr Mowlam was offering advice: there was no hint of the SDLP's reaction affecting the Labour Party's reaction to the package.

cc: Mr Blackwell  
Mr Marshall  
Mr Mosefield

[SIGNED]

ANITA BHARUCHA  
PRIVATE SECRETARY  
OAB 6456

You kindly agreed to meet Piers Gordon Smart and me to talk about what CASIR can do for our office. Piers will be in touch with me but I thought it might be useful to set down in writing the points we should like to cover.

Will we actually have the system on our desks? Will we get it at the same time in the London and the Belfast offices? There would be advantages to this.

Training - when will this happen? How long will it be? Will we be able to get cover if everyone is being trained at the same time?

We would all like machines in both offices on which the 'a' drives have not been disabled: this is extremely important if we are not to lose information when the system crashes.

Stoplock: Although I do see the importance of this, I remember from Massey House having repeatedly to log on after a relatively short period of time as being one of the more irritating features of the system. What is the maximum time this can be set for?

Receiving documents: will users of the system know to send mail for the office only to one terminal (in each of the London and Belfast offices)? Ideally we would have one terminal for sending and receiving documents so that all our mail goes to one place. But at the same time more than one person should be able to send and print out documents: how will this be arranged - will the password prevent it?

Will we have enough space for all the equipment, particularly as we will be keeping stuff for some time?

We know what improvement the new system will bring us in some areas eg keeping the diaries in London and Belfast up to date: what else can it do for us? How can we learn from best practice in other offices - 2 - especially Private Offices

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