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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
DESK IMMEDIATE!!   Mr Maccabe
                                   Mr Stephens(L&Talks)
                                   Mr Lamont RID/FCO
                                   HMA Dublin
                                   Mr Holmes No.10

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

[SIGNED]

ANITA BHARUCHA
PRIVATE SECRETARY
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