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CONFIDENTIAL

FROM: PS/Mr Murphy
19 March 1998

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - O
PS/Mr Murphy (B&L) - O
Mr Jeffrey
Mr Leach - O
Mr Stephens - O
Mr Howard - O
Mr Priestly - O
Mr Warner - O
Mr Holmes, NO 10

Mr Thomas - O

THE EASTER DEADLINE

Mr Murphy has seen your note of 17 March and commented as follows:

"Quentin's knees are not at risk! I am sure I did, but I can not recall saying so starkly, that a failure to meet the Easter deadline would mean failure in the talks. I agree, however, that a 'Heads of Agreement' settled by Easter, in itself, is an achievement. Similarly the world would not collapse if we don't meet the exact deadline. I also agree that we should not prepare people for Armageddon if we have not finished by Maundy Thursday."

R P Lemon

R P LEMON
PS/Paul Murphy MP

CONFIDENTIAL

RL/EASTER/BB

TOTAL P.16