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5 JUN 1996

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FROM: A J WHYSALL  
CPL DIVISION

PHONE: (0171 210) 0234  
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DATE: 3 JUNE 1996

- cc: PS/Michael Ancram (L,B&DENI) -B/F
- PS/Sir John Wheeler (L,B&DFP) -B/F
- PS/Baroness Denton (L,DED&DANI) -B/F
- PS/Mr Moss (L,DOE&DHSS) -B/F
- PS/PUS (L&B) -B
- PS/Sir David Fell -B
- Mr Thomas -B
- Mr Bell -B
- Mr Leach -B
- Mr Clayton, HOLAB -B
- Mr Watkins -B
- Mr Wood (L&B) -B
- Mr Beeton -B
- Mr Carson, Forum Secretariat -B
- Mr Hill -B
- Mr Lavery -B
- Mr Maccabe -N
- Mr Stephens -B
- Ms Marson -B
- Mr Brearley -B
- Mr Dickinson, TAU -B
- HMA Dublin -B
- Mr Lamont, RID -B
- Mr Campbell-Bannerman -B

*h Carter*  
*St his letter (+ sub. on*  
*allowances) don't go to SF +*  
*our letter don't cover them,*  
*there is a case for letting*  
*St have the info. in*  
*respect of the Forum only.*  
*M. discuss with Mr Hill*  
*how we might do this*  
*+ what of the annex*  
*have not + not now apply.*

PS/Secretary of State (L&B) -B

TALKS: INVITATIONS TO NOMINATE TEAMS

I attach final drafts of the letters to nominating representatives, inviting them to nominate teams to the negotiations; along with the proposed arranged PQ reply, and a draft of a press release.

2. The letter takes account of the changes made by Ministers. We suggest it might be helpful to convey with the letter the two Government's final conclusions on allowances which are now the subject of regular inquiries to PAB. (We shall still need to be in touch about other aspects of the negotiations, and the draft reflects this.)

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3. An address list is attached (for you only) for the letters, including fax numbers: I suggest the letters go by fax and first class post. It covers the nine parties who had delegates returned last week, excluding Sinn Fein. The Secretary of State should note that, formally, in sending invitations to these parties, he is recognising that paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Ground Rules are met in relation to them (or more strictly, that he does not have grounds for considering they are not): that is, in particular, that they have established a commitment to exclusively peaceful methods and have shown that they abide by the democratic process. It was always envisaged that this wording would embrace all the parties with which we are concerned here - including the loyalists, if there were no ending of the loyalist ceasefire.

4. The draft press notice follows what I understand to be the line proposed by Michael Ancram.

5. Colleagues have suggested that there may be advantage in letter (from a Private Secretary) to Sinn Fein, putting them on notice that they are not invited: advice follows this afternoon.

6. I recommend the Secretary of State to write in the terms of the attached draft, to approve the draft PQ reply for issue tomorrow, and to approve the draft press notice to be issued this afternoon.

signed Alan Whysall

A J WHYSALL

DRAFT LETTER

June 1996

I am writing to you as the nominating representative of a party which has been successful in the elections, to invite you under the terms of section 2 of the Northern Ireland (Entry to Negotiations, etc) Act 1996 to nominate a team to participate in the negotiations beginning next Monday.

The negotiating team must under the Act be composed of delegates returned at the elections. There is no limit to the number of delegates who may be included. The Ground Rules for the negotiations proposed by the two governments would however generally limit a party's team for any one meeting to three (with a further three people, who need not be elected, in support if they wish).

We need to make arrangements with all speed. It would be helpful if your nomination could be passed to me as quickly as possible, and in any event no later than 6 June, via the head of our Talks Administration Unit, Mr Peter Dickinson. His telephone number is 01232 522128 and his fax number 01232 522119.

It would be convenient also if Mr Dickinson could be notified as soon as possible after you receive this letter of the name of a person with whom he should be in contact (a colleague, or indeed yourself if you wish) over initial administrative arrangements for the negotiations.

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I am enclosing for your information a copy of a response I propose to give tomorrow to a parliamentary question about nominations to the negotiations.

I also enclose a note about the allowances we intend to pay to delegates.

We shall be in touch further about arrangements both for the negotiations, and for the Forum.

I believe we are embarking on a process of dialogue with great potential to improve the lives and prospects of the people of Northern Ireland, and of everyone in these two islands. I look forward very much to your contribution.

## ALLOWANCES FOR DELEGATES AND PARTIES

As indicated in Michael Ancram's letter of 18 April, the Government proposes to pay the following allowances to individuals:

### Loss of earnings

A loss of earnings allowance at a daily rate of £100, and £50 for less than 4 hours will be payable to elected delegates only, on the basis of relevant attendance at the forum or for the purposes of the negotiations. This can be claimed in arrears.

### Substantive/travel expenses

Delegations (and party support staff) will be able to claim subsistence and travel expenses at the standard Civil Service rates.

In addition, the Government is prepared to offer to pay the following to parties:

### Party Allowance

In addition to allowances paid to individual members, a flat rate party allowance of £300 (or such lesser figure as may be agreed in the Business Committee) for each day in which the party concerned is involved in negotiations.

### Party Research Grants

The Government is prepared to pay a party research grant in respect of vouched expenditure on relevant items of work, whether related to the negotiations or to the forum, up to a maximum of £6,000 per quarter for parties with six or more elected delegates and £3,000 per quarter for parties with five or less.

*and for forum only ?*

DRAFT PQ REPLY

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, if he will make a statement about nominations to the forthcoming political negotiations.

SIR PATRICK MAYHEW

I have issued invitations to nominate teams to participate in the negotiations, under section 2(2) of the Northern Ireland (Entry to Negotiations, etc) Act 1996, to the nominating representatives of the following parties:

Alliance Party

Democratic Unionist Party - DUP

Labour

Northern Ireland Women's Coalition

Progressive Unionist Party (PUP)

Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP)

UK Unionist Party - Robert McCartney

Ulster Democratic Party (UDP)

Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)

I am required by section 2(3) of the Act to refrain from inviting nominations in respect of any party if I consider that requirements set out in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Grounds Rules for substantive all-party negotiations (published as command paper 3232) are not met in relation to it. Paragraph 9 of the Ground Rules makes clear the agreement of the British and Irish governments that the

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participation of Sinn Fein in the negotiations requires the unequivocal restoration of the ceasefire of August 1994. That requirement is clearly not met, and I have, therefore, following consultation with the Irish Government, not invited any nomination in respect of Sinn Fein.

Despite their absence, the talks beginning on 10 June will bring together with an elective mandate negotiators representing most of the people in Northern Ireland. They will offer an opportunity to set Northern Ireland on course for a more settled, peaceful and prosperous future, and to enhance further relationships between both parts of the island of Ireland and between the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic.

DRAFT PRESS NOTICE

The Secretary of State, Sir Patrick Mayhew, today announced that in the light of results of the elections last week, he had invited nominations of teams for the negotiations to begin next Monday from the following parties:

Alliance Party

Democratic Unionist - DUP

Labour

Northern Ireland Women's Coalition

Progressive Unionist Party (PUP)

Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP)

UK Unionist Party - Robert McCartney

Ulster Democratic Party (UDP)

Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)

The Secretary of State has not invited nominations in respect of Sinn Fein. This is in line with the policy set out by the Prime Minister and Taoiseach when they met on 28 February - which is

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reflected in the Ground Rules for the negotiations and the legislation underpinning the elections - that their participation in the negotiations would require the unequivocal restoration of the IRA ceasefire of August 1994.