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CONFIDENTIAL

DJW/21/4

FROM: D J WATKINS  
US CENT SEC  
DATE: 15 APRIL 1994

CC: PS/PUS (B&L) - B  
PS/Mr Fell - B  
Mr Williams - B  
Mr Bell - B  
Mr Daniell - B  
Mrs Brown - B  
Mr Brooker - B  
Mr Maccabe - B  
Mr Archer, RID - B  
HMA, Dublin - B

[Signed DJW]

Mr Thomas - B

STRAND II - DRAFT PAPER

1. I mentioned to you recently that we were drafting a paper outlining to the Irish the issues which would have to be covered in any serious consideration of Strand II matters. A NO 4 first draft is now attached. I see it as being suitable either for use by us as a speaking note or, preferably, to be handed over to the Irish.

2. The paper is a summary of the issues involved in taking Strand II forward; it does not attempt to explore those issues in depth or to offer solutions to problems which will be encountered in that detailed work. It does suggest that the next step should be to build up models of the various types of North/South arrangements which might be considered desirable in order to test their workability.

3. You will see a sentence in square brackets in paragraph 19, referring to an Annex which sets out the criterion of mutual benefit in greater detail. I am not committed to putting the Annex to the Irish in that form at this stage, but its inclusion with the draft might be of value to you and copy recipients in considering the line which the paper takes.

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FROM:

J McKerrill  
British Embassy, Dublin

DATE:

14 April 1994

- 4. I am keen to have your views on the content of the paper and on the proposition that we might shortly put it to the Irish, possibly adapted somewhat, depending on the form and content of the paper which the Irish are to produce for the next Liaison Group meeting. I take it that you agree that, if (as I think we should) it is at some point to be handed to the Irish, we would need Ministerial endorsement to it.

Mr Thomas - 8

[Signed DJW]

LIAISON GROUP: ANNOTATED AGENDA OF THE TACTICAL OPTIONS FOR DEPLOYING THE JOINT FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT

D J WATKINS

I am grateful to Mr Sprooker for copying to us his paper on tactical options for carrying forward the talks process.

2. I think it is a splendid piece of work. I have only one comment. It relates to the assumption in paragraphs 4 and 7 that any new collective talks would be preceded by bilateral exchanges involving the two Governments and the Northern Ireland parties in order to confirm the procedural basis in which the new talks would take place. Do we envisage here the Irish Government having bilateral exchanges with all the Northern Ireland parties in advance of the talks? The 26 March 1991 statement as far as I can remember, was agreed without previous bilaterals involving the Irish Government and all the Northern Ireland parties. To suit us the third third of paragraph four should be amended to read "any new collective talks would be preceded by bilateral exchanges between the two Governments and between HMS and the Northern Ireland parties in order ...". This could however be taken badly by the Irish (memories of "managed bilaterals" being fresh here). A more neutral formula eg "..... bilateral exchanges between the two Governments and, as appropriate, the NI parties" would avoid unnecessary controversy on this, at least at this stage when it is largely hypothetical anyway.

(SIGNED)  
J McKerrill