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FROM:

J McKervill
British Embassy, Dublin

DATE:

14 April 1994

CC:

Mr Bell - B
Mr Williams - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Daniell - B
Mr Brooker - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mrs Brown - B
Mr Archer - B
Mr Beeton - B
Miss Harrison - B

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
15 APR 1994
SIL DIVISION

Mr Thomas - B

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

1. I am grateful to Mr Brooker for copying to us his paper on procedural 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 tirect of paragraph four should be amended to read "any new collective talks would be preceded by bilateral exchanges between the two Governments and between HMG 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 McKervill

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