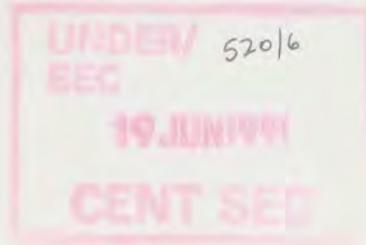


From: PS/Secretary of State
18 June 1991

cc PS/SofS (B&L) - B
PS/MofS (B&L) - B
PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Mr Feil - B
Mr Pilling - B
Mr Thomas (B&L) - B
Mr Alston - B
Mr McNeill - B
Mr Cooke - B
Mr Pope - B

2216



Mr D J R Hill (B&L) - B

19/6

Wm Mawhinney

COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN PARTY LEADERS AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON
THE MORNING OF MONDAY 17 JUNE 1991

Mr Molyneux and Dr Paisley

Mr Molyneux and Dr Paisley came to see the Secretary of State at 10.25 am on Monday 17 June. Dr Mawhinney, PUS and I were present.

2. Mr Molyneux said that certain checks had been made on the proposed chairman for Strand II of the Talks, the results of which were positive so far as he was concerned. Dr Paisley said that the DUP had received a fax that morning which led to a couple of matters needing to be checked. He did not consider that these were very serious, but he wanted the matters looked at in case the proposal "blows up in our faces".

3. Continuing, Dr Paisley said he would be very perturbed if plenary talks did not start as planned because Mr Hume would be breaking the solemn undertaking he had given, and "some of us" were minded to test that undertaking.

4. The Secretary of State suggested that Dr Paisley and Mr Molyneux went to see Mr Hume, as the arrangements that they had reached had been private in that the Secretary of State had not been a party to them. Dr Paisley said that he understood that Mr Hume had not arrived at Parliament Buildings.

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5. I left the room at this point to try to ascertain whether Mr Hume had or had not arrived. In my absence, I understand that Dr Paisley said that he needed to use the telephone, and that it would take him until noon to check out matters because it would not be appropriate to call Australia until that time.

6. On confirmation that Mr Hume had arrived, Mr Molyneaux and Dr Paisley left at 10.35 am to talk to him.

Mr Molyneaux, Mr Hume, Dr Alderdice

7. Mr Molyneaux, Mr Hume and Dr Alderdice came to see the Secretary of State at 11.45 am. Mr Molyneaux said that he wanted to inform the Secretary of State that Dr Paisley had left the building, saying that he was going to his Party Headquarters, and would be back in 20 minutes.

8. The Secretary of State asked what position had been reached between the party leaders on the start of plenary sessions. Mr Hume responded that he had told Dr Paisley that he was not prepared for there to be any false starts. Privately, Dr Paisley had told him that there should not be a problem. He was therefore prepared to wait until Dr Paisley was ready to start. Dr Alderdice said that his view was that it was preferable to settle the issue of chairmanship before commencing plenaries. The Secretary of State said that earlier that morning, Dr Paisley had told him that he expected to be ready to begin plenary sessions by noon.

9. The meeting ended at 11.50 am.

Telephone Call from Dr Paisley

10. Dr Paisley rang the Secretary of State at 12.35 pm. He was speaking from Mr Robinson's office at the Ice Bowl. He told the Secretary of State that he had been speaking to Melbourne, and as a result would be prepared to work under the proposed chairman of Strand II, despite some personal reservations about him. Dr Paisley asked whether plenaries could start before lunch. The Secretary of

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State said he would be content with this, provided other delegations were available.

Plenaries

11. The first plenary session began at 12.52 pm.

Signed

A J D PAWSON
Private Secretary