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of short bilaterals, or the Talks extend into evening sessions for more than the occasional day, it may be necessary to expand the note-taking team to four. In that case we would need to consider seconding someone from the Political Development Team, or possibly - if Mr McNeill would be content - from PAB, or finding an extra body with the appropriate skills.]

Practical consequences

2. Mr Townson is making the necessary accommodation plans and will be acquiring the necessary furniture and office equipment. Mr Taylor (ISU) has been asked to provide a suitable WP system to support the note-taking team and the Chairman's personal secretary.
3. On the basis of our experience to date, the note-taking team will need to be supported by at least one typist (who will also need to take on the photocopying and other clerical duties), with the Chairman's personal secretary expected to take some of the strain. We should be able to share the cost with the Irish Government and it may be that they would be able to provide an individual to fill the post. However, we may need to find a typist to support the note-takers ourselves.
4. On the "worst case" assumption that we need to provide a personal secretary and a typist ourselves, I will consider further the proposal in paragraph 4 of my earlier minute regarding the personal secretary post. As regards the typist post I would be nervous about simply redeploying a whole unit from the existing Talks Secretariat typing pool until I have had an opportunity to establish whether the loss of responsibility for doing summary minutes results in any significant diminution of the very heavy workload on the pool.
5. There are obvious sensitivities about any appointments to these posts. Some of the delegations might be concerned about confidentiality if it emerged that one of "the Government's" typists was acting as PS to the Chairman or doing the minutes of all the Chairman's meetings, which could of course include bilaterals not involving the Government. This may also rule out the appointment of

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