

(206/100)

PA Inter Party Talks

TO ALL MEMBERS OF STAFF

FROM PUS
12 JULY 1991

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NI OFFICE

With the ending of this political Talks process, I should like all staff to know how much the Secretary of State and his Ministerial colleagues, and my senior colleagues and myself, value and appreciate the essential contribution of everyone in the Office to this, and to all the other important work that goes on. I attach a note from the Secretary of State expressing his thanks for all our efforts. I should also like to thank those who have released members of staff to the talks, and covered gaps left as a consequence over the past months.

2. With the near approach of the summer leave season, I should like to say on a personal note, after nearly a year in the Office, how impressed and encouraged I have been by the quality and dedication of my colleagues in all parts of the Office, and by the sheer competence, imagination and flexibility which has been shown in meeting the unexpected as well as our established tasks. The need for the Office to pursue its aim of making Northern Ireland a better and more peaceful place in which to live continues and on the political development side we spent Tuesday (as the Secretary of State's note mentions) reviewing the Talks process, and beginning to lay the groundwork for further progress on that front. The pursuit of our common aim is, as I know colleagues well appreciate, a sum of all the areas of work and policy the Office is involved in, and our ultimate success will depend on our achievements across the range. The careful handling of tricky issues has impressed me enormously and has served to ensure major events like the talks have not become diverted from their main purpose.

3. I hope that everyone will have a good holiday over the coming weeks; it has been uncommonly well earned.



J A CHILCOT

12 JULY 1991

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