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FROM: D A LAVERY
CENTRAL SECRETARIAT
30 September 1997

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L)
PS/Mr Murphy (B&L)
PS/PUS (B&L)
PS/Mr Semple
Mr Thomas (B&L)
Mr Carvill, DENI
Mr Spence, DOE
Mr Watkins
Mr Stephens (B&L)
Mr Brooker
Mrs Brown
Mr Carson
Dr Canavan
Mr Ferguson o/a
Mr Whysall
Mr Johnston o/r

W/2/12
Dr. Balfour
1/10

Mr Hill (B&L)

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MR TRIMBLE (8 OCTOBER)

1. This is to let you have some material on **Confidence-Building Measures** (so far as these relate to the responsibilities of the Northern Ireland Departments) for inclusion in the briefing you have been asked to provide for Mr Trimble's meeting with the Prime Minister on 8 October.
2. The attached material (which might be suitable to include in the briefing letter) covers the 6 CBMs in Mr Trimble's original list which come within NI Departmental responsibilities, plus the new CBM relating to the victims of terrorist violence.

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3. David Ferguson (who takes over my responsibilities on the political development side of Central Secretariat from 2 October) will be able to let you have any supplementary material you require, and will also assume responsibility for providing periodic up-dates on progress on these CBMs.

[Signed DAL]

**D A LAVERY
PB 28196**

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[DRAFT: 30/9/97]

**PART INPUT TO BRIEFING FOR PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING
WITH MR TRIMBLE (8 OCTOBER)**

CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

1. Good progress has been made across the range of **Confidence-Building Measures** to follow-up the list originally handed-over by David Trimble at a meeting on 31 July.
2. An early priority for Mr Trimble was **school funding** and the Government's response to the recent Coopers & Lybrand report. Tony Worthington issued a Press Release on 10 September announcing that the Government has accepted the central thrust of the recommendations of the Coopers & Lybrand report on formula funding in schools. Mr Trimble has welcomed this commitment.
3. Another early priority related to **local government**. On 11 September Lord Dubs issued a Press Release announcing that the Government is considering how District Councils in Northern Ireland might be given an enhanced role in promoting the economic, social and environmental well-being of their areas. In particular, this confirmed that the Government sees a need to promote legislation which would clarify District Councils' power to manage and develop their own property in pursuit of their local economic development objectives.
4. Another priority for Mr Trimble is the **Northern Ireland Forum**. Here, the Secretary of State has given a commitment that she will visit the Forum later this year. This will underscore the Secretary of State's commitment that she and her Ministerial team will give full co-operation to the Forum in carrying out its allotted task. Mr Trimble would also like to change the balance of work

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within the Forum away from Plenary meetings and toward more committee work. The Forum Secretariat will be able to discuss with the UUP how this could be achieved - although it is, in the final analysis, a matter for the Forum to set in train.

5. Mr Trimble has recently been calling for a review of funding for **community and cultural development** with particular reference to access from, and fair treatment of, the Protestant community. We can announce good progress on this as well. The Secretary of State has been giving urgent consideration to this work and the Prime Minister will be able to confirm that work to review this important issue will be taken forward as a priority. This will involve an examination of the extent to which community and cultural development funding is equitably accessed by both communities and, if this examination reveals discrepancies between the known need for such funding and uptake (either generally or in terms of particular programmes) what measures might be taken to facilitate equitable access to programmes by both communities.

6. In relation to **Quangos and public appointments**, Mr Trimble's main concern here seems to be to secure the appointment of more public representatives. Officials are working to introduce more open and transparent appointments procedures and have been asked to consider the feasibility of more appointments of public representatives.

7. In relation to SACHR's review of Northern Ireland's **fair employment legislation**, Mr Trimble has called for greater openness and fairness in this review. Mr Trimble has already been given an assurance (in Paul Murphy's letter of 2 September) that the Secretary of State will give full and proper weight to UUP member, Dermot Nesbitt's, dissenting contribution to the SACHR report. The next step will be for the Government to publish a paper this Winter explaining its views on SACHR's recommendations and setting out the proposed way forward.

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8. Finally, Mr Trimble has recently added to the list of Confidence-Building Measures the need for mark the sacrifices made by the victims of terrorism. In his 'News Letter' article published on 13 September, the Prime Minister said that the Government is looking with some urgency at how best to mark these sacrifices and help those left behind. This work is likely to require input from several areas of Ministerial/Departmental responsibility. One practical and tangible step under consideration is the proposal to create a Thanksgiving Square at Laganside in Belfast so as to provide a permanent memorial for those who have suffered in "the Troubles". The Secretary of State met the promoters of this initiative on 19 August. Although the UUP have previously floated the idea of a "Commission" to look further into the question of the victims of violence, it seems that they are not necessarily wedded to this approach - the important thing, they have stressed, is that Government should recognise that something should be done for the victims. It would be helpful if the UUP could put forward more developed thinking in this area. Ministers would be very willing to discuss their ideas further.

[30/9/96]

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