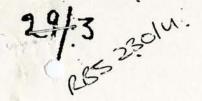
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C.C. Roapsar . MR Anges Me Sulliva. Miss Quens Me Angus

COMFINENTIAL

Mr. Bloomfield - M Mr. Brennan Mr. A.V. Stephens - M Mr. Merifield - M Mr. Innes - M Mr. Spence - M Mr. Bell Miss Elliott Nr. M. Elliott - M

ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT; UNIONIST REACTIONS

In your minute to me of 18 November (Mr. Brennan's minute to me of the same date also refers) you asked for a "game plan" covering the likely reactions of unionists to the Anglo-Irish Agreement. I attach a note prepared by Miss Elliott in collaboration with PAB and Central Secretariat.

The note takes account of the Secretary of State's clearly expressed view that he did not want any long narrative. It therefore seeks to serve the purpose of an aide memoire, identifying the kinds of action we are likely to face, their general timescale, and the issues that they raise. It did not seen to be helpful to try to do more than that when events are moving so rapidly. But we can, of course, expand and elaborate if you think that would be useful.

D. CHESTERTON 22 November 1985



CONFIDENTIAL

COMPRESSION

ACTION WHICH THE UNIONISTS HAVE TAKEN OR NIGHT TAKE TO PROTEST AT THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT, IN CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

	Timing	Implications
1. Withdrawal of cooperation with NIO Ministers	As of 15 November	Onpleasantness at public occasions. Complications in the conduct of Assembly business, although contact with officials has continued; but recent indications are
		that the parties see the disadvantages for them and may revert to normal
		practice. Effects on Ministerial correspondence. The balance of advantage
		is for Ministers to continue to conduct business in normal fashion.
2. Boycott of Area	Progranding	

Even if all unionist councillors withdraw, the bodies continue to operate. There are no signs yet that all Protestant members will do so. There are adequate provisions for filling vacancies, although fresh candidates might not be forthcoming. Substantial vacancies could cause problems.

Parliamentary debates may take place as planned. Unlikely to impinge on first meeting of Anglo-Igish Intergovernmental Conference.

Depends on turnout and whether trouble free. Letter from PM to Mr Kilfedder to be published on 23 November.

Impact will depend on number of resignations (not yet certain that all will do so); whether elections take place on same day; turnout on the day (the results will not be a surprise, although Sim Fein may win one marginal seat). The Government

2. Boycott of Area Boards and other statutory bodies

Progressive withdrawal as bodies meet

Application for

judicial review

lodged on 20

November. Mr

Justice Mann

not a proper matter for

23 November

decided it was

review. Possible renewed application in open court - not before 25 Nov.

3. Legal challenge to the Anglo-Irish Agreement

4. Belfast protest rally

5. Resignation of Westminster seats and by-elections

December

Application for Chiltern Hundreds likely on 27 Nov; writ moved on 29 November; byelections on 19 November,

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Timing

6. Westminister boycott if no referendum granted after by-elections

7. Assembly boycott if no referendum

After Christmas

Early new year

8. District Council boycott if no referendum

Later in 1986

9. Civil disobedience, non-payment of rent, rates, electricity and water

After political protest routes exhausted

10. Industrial action - a one-day or prolonged strike

On present assessment, unlikely

Implications

should do nothing to obstruct the normal course of events for fear of being seen to suppress and be afraid of disagreement.

Political difficulties, but no actual impediment to Government business in Parliament.

Possibility growing more remote. Alliance & DUP want to keep it going. They will realise that decision on fresh elections will be made around that time. The latter is a lever for the Government.

All unionist-controlled councils will probably have suspended business by Christmas, but probably with delegation of authorizy to carry on daily business. However, in February they are obliged by law to strike a rate; this cannot be delegated. But if they resign en masse, 11 of the 18 unionist-controlled councils could continue 7 would not have sufficient quorum. DOE have sufficient powers to take emergency action.

Present arrangements for dealing with non-payment of such items (Benefit Allocation System) would be strained and could not cope with mass refusal. Ministers could emphasise tradition values of Protestant ethic to counter any pressure for such action.

Contingency plans have been made.

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