

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM: JACKIE McGIMPSEY  
ANGLO IRISH SECRETARIAT  
17 February 1998



837197  
R14/98

Mr McGimpsey  
19.2

- cc: PS/PUS (B&L)
- PS/Mr Semple
- Mr Carvill
- Mr Small
- Mr Thomas
- Mr Steele
- Mr Bell
- Mr Leach
- Mr Shannon
- Mr Stephens
- Mr Watkins
- Mr Beeton
- Mr Brooker
- Mrs Collins
- Mr Hill
- Mr Maccabe
- Mr Perry
- HMA, Dublin
- Mr Fergusson, RID

1. cc to Mr McCusker  
Mr Ferguson

2. cc to Mr [unclear] 18/2

You will wish to note  
paras 7, 8 + 14 in particular

3. Mr [unclear]

He will note paras 6 + 13  
in particular.

17.2

**NOTE OF A DELEGATION MEETING HELD AT MARYFIELD ON  
12 FEBRUARY 1998**

A Delegation Meeting took place at Maryfield on 12 February 1998. The British side was represented by Mr Bell, Ms McGimpsey, Mrs Maxwell and Miss Brown. The Irish side representatives were Mr Donoghue, Mr Dowling and Mr Magner.

**Summary**

- 2. Fast moving, conspicuously amicable, covering a wide range and number of topics.

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A Murders

3. Although the Chief Constable had not yet said anything in public about the possible involvement of PIRA in recent murders, and was conscious of not saying anything prematurely, Mr Bell emphasised (for the benefit of Department of Justice as well as Department of Foreign Affairs officials present), that he was in fact in no doubt that these were PIRA murders. Commenting, the Irish side said that they had had vehement denials of PIRA involvement from various (ie Sinn Fein) sources.

Hospitality

4. 18 March was agreed on as date for St Patrick's Day reception; invitations would specify the time at which the function would end. The availability of the Secretary of State and Ministers would be checked. (Action Ms McGimpsey).

5. The Irish side proposed to invite PUS to dinner in the next few weeks - (Monday evenings preferred), and separately Mr Steele and the Chief Constable.

Fair Employment

*the cause*  
6. The Irish side also proposed to invite to lunch Mr Watkins and Mrs Brown (Wednesday or Thursdays preferred) to discuss progress on the FE Review and PAFT, but accepted that giving PAFT legislative effect could reduce administration to gridlock and would be a disincentive for investment. Mr Bell explained that although final Ministerial decisions had not yet been taken 'the contractions had begun'! The FE legislation could be far reaching and provide an example for the ROI to emulate.



7. The Irish side also hoped to discuss with Central Secretariat problems which had arisen with Irish Ministerial visits. They took the opportunity to pass on Mr Andrews' gratitude to the RUC for their work and courtesy during his recent visit.

### IGC

8. Thursday 5 March in Dublin was provisionally confirmed although timing needed further discussion. A Conference was essential at this turbulent time. It was agreed that Economic and Social topic was important. However the Irish Minister for Finance would be in the Dail with the Finance Bill and would therefore be unable to attend the Conference. The Irish side preferred to put off the EU item and replace it with (i) Environment and Water Quality and (ii) Roads. Mr Bell reminded the Irish side that the NI Departments involved would require the maximum advance notice for paper drafting etc, (later agreed that EU Structural Funds paper should be taken). A detailed agenda would be prepared by the end of the following week. (Action - Mr Fisher).

### Bloody Sunday

9. The Irish side remained keenly interested in the inquiry and requested information on timing, legal representations and clarification on a number of technical aspects. They were told that such issues were all actively being worked on at present. Lord Saville was seeking to do as much as possible even before his colleagues were appointed; he was determined to make and exploit modern technology to ensure that proceedings were instantly available. The British side would keep the Irish side au courant.



**Policing Bill**

10. The Irish side requested good notice of any interim amendments and regular briefing on developments. Mr Bell reassured them that he had no reason to believe that any significant amendments would be forthcoming.

**Prisons**

11. The Irish side were told that the Nairey Inquiry was in its final stages. The Irish side drew attention to a recent newspaper article reporting that the Secretary of State was looking to South Africa for guidance on prison reforms. Mr Bell explained that the article was a totally innocent one and full background was provided to the Irish side.

**Robert Hamill**

12. The Irish side requested an update on the current position of the investigation into Hamill's death and the ICPC investigation on allegations against the RUC. (Advice - Police Division, please).

**Irish Language**

13. The Irish side reiterated that much more could be done in this area at little financial cost. This could be a 'Take Note item' on the agenda at the next IGC. (Central Secretariat to note).

**Fisheries - Hague Preference**

14. While the British side welcomed the enthusiasm of the Irish side for resolving this problem in an East/West context, Mr Bell reminded them of the



importance of not neglecting the Irish dimension: Northern Ireland mattered! The Irish side were assured that the British side would respond with a follow-up paper with a view to a further meeting at official level; a Ministerial Meeting would be premature. This could be a Take Note item on the agenda at the next IGC. (Central Secretariat to note).

### Openness and Transparency

15. British Ministers continued to attach importance to making progress. Mr Bell hoped to follow up shortly with Mr Donoghue.

### Broadcasting

16. The Irish side suggested that the IGC take note of progress on the enhancement of the RTE signal in NI. The British side responded that they remained on wider grounds of public policy, supportive of enhanced RTE reception in NI, but both sides had an interest in avoiding an acrimonious spat between TV companies over, eg copyright.

17. It was important in the British view, that both sides encouraged the broadcasters to strike a deal. Mr Donoghue had spoken to the Director General of RTE, who blamed UTV for intransigence. Both sides recognised that the issue needed careful and sensitive handling, although the NIO, as Mr Bell pointed out, was not the lead department. (Action: IPL to approach DCMS).



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18. **Tête-à-Tête**

In subsequent tête-à-tête mode, Mr Bell reinforced (without circumstantial details) RUC views on PIRA murders. Talks related issues were also covered.

Signed:

**JACKIE McGIMPSEY**

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