

#13326/98

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THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

TRANSITION

FROM: GERRY COSGRAVE

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Mr Cosgrave

DATE: 7 OCTOBER 1998

Mr Cosgrave 19/10

Notes

19/10

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE(L&B)

*Notes, thank you. How is Pat Cull
to decide which officials should attend?
I would be interested.*

TRANSITION PROGRAMME - BRUSSELS CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS - 3-6 NOVEMBER 1998

Issue:

The European Commission is hosting a 3-day Brussels Conference on European Affairs as part of the Transition Programme for Northern Ireland Assembly Members. The Head of the Commission Representation in Belfast wishes to invite the Secretary of State to attend the opening dinner on Tuesday, 3 November.

for 9/10

Timescale:

Priority

*Mr Hunter,
Pat Cull has passed the papers to Stephen Quinn requesting that he nominates from DFP. My understanding is that he will nominate one from DFP*

Recommendation:

The Secretary of State is recommended to accept the dinner invitation.

to attend the conference. However there will also be at least 2 DFP officials accompanying Paul Murphy and the 1st + deput 1st Minister

- 1. The draft Programme for the Brussels Conference for Northern Ireland

Assembly members is now in near-final form. A copy is attached at Annex A. *on the Brussels Ministerial visit.*

- 2. The Head of the European Commission Representation in Northern Ireland, Mr Jim Dougal, will be writing shortly to the Secretary of State inviting her to attend the opening dinner on Tuesday, 3 November 1998.

If Pat decided that a second official could attend the conference we would certainly have the room for them. Happ to discuss

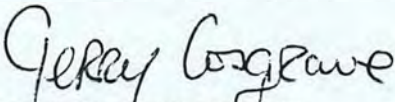
- 3. The Brussels Conference is an important component of the overall Transition Programme and between 70-80 Assembly members are expected to attend, together with appropriate senior Northern Ireland Civil Servants. A visit en masse by members of a newly created Assembly to the European Institutions

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is a unique occasion. The Secretary of State's attendance on the first evening would acknowledge this and would be greatly appreciated by the Commission. It would also demonstrate her support for the steps being taken to prepare Assembly members and Civil Servants to take on their new responsibilities. I recommend that she accepts Mr Dougal's invitation.

4. It is not envisaged that the Secretary of State should speak formally at the dinner. Commissioner Neil Kinnock will be guest speaker and it would be sufficient for her to respond briefly by thanking the European Commission for its hospitality and for the efforts made to help the new Assembly. Nearer the time I can provide the Secretary of State with briefing which she can draw upon in her response.
5. UK Representatives and EC Officials have also been working together to design a Ministerial visit for Mr Murphy, Mr Trimble and Mr Mallon which complements the Conference for Assembly Members and which will bring both programmes together at appropriate stages. This programme will include calls on President Santer, Commissioner Wulf-Mathies and other key figures. In view of Mr Murphy's extensive programme, REL(NIO) and UKRep's view is that the Secretary of State need not undertake other engagements in Brussels. There is, however, a possibility of a breakfast meeting on 4 November with Pauline Green MEP, which the Secretary of State might wish to join.
6. The Secretary of State is asked to indicate if she is content to attend the opening dinner and if so, whether she would want to accept Sir Stephen Wall's offer of overnight accommodation.


GERRY COSGRAVE

GMC/390/TransProg/Oct98

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Sir Kenneth Stowe
Professor P Corrigan
Dr S Rowland
Mr J Dougal

THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY & THE EUROPEAN UNION

CONFERENCE, BRUSSELS, 3 - 6 NOVEMBER 1998

(DRAFT PROGRAMME @ 2.10.98)

TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER

- 6.30pm **Introductory Briefing (Overview)**
- Current State of the EU and Forthcoming Political Priorities
 - Agenda 2000 (Next stages)
 - EURO
 - Enlargement
 - Role of the Commission
 - Institutional Reform

Guest Speaker : *Xavier Lamaudie-Eiffel, Chef de Cabinet
Commissioner de Silguy*

(to be confirmed)

7.15pm **Reception**
Hilton Hotel

8.00pm **Dinner**
*Hosted by Jim Dougal, Head of the European Commission
Representation in Northern Ireland*

Guest Speaker
Neil Kinnock, Commissioner

WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER

9.15 - 10.45 **Workshop A**

**SUCCESSFUL REGIONS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES
EXCHANGE OF PRACTICE AND
EXPERIENCE**

(Including Politicians from other EU Regions
possibly Germany, Spain)

Workshop B

**INFORMATION CHANNELS
DG X**

Speakers

*Joao Vale de Almeida
Peter Doyle*

WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER (contd)

10.45 - 11.00 Coffee

11.00 - 12.30 **Workshop C**

CROSS BORDER

(Speakers)

(to be confirmed)

Workshop D

EMPLOYMENT

INNOVATION

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

COMPETITION

(Speakers)

Allan Larsson, DG V

David Wright, Cabinet

President Santer

12.45pm

Lunch

Padraig Flynn, Commissioner

2.30pm

European Parliament

Welcome Presentation, including NI MEPs Ian Paisley, John Hume and Jim Nicholson

3.00pm

Delegates seated in VIP / Diplomatic Gallery

Welcomed to the Parliament by **President Gil-Robles**

(First item on order of Business)

3.15 - 3.45

Observe Parliamentary Proceedings

WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER (contd)

4.00pm Series of Presentations by a variety of Speakers on :

- Work of the European Parliament
- Work and Role of the Committees
- Relationship with Regional / National Parliaments
- EU Budget

5.30pm **Reception**

European Parliament, hosted by President Gil-Robles

Speakers: *President Gil-Robles*
Lord Alderdice, Initial Presiding Officer, NI Assembly

6.30pm **Reception :** Commission Foyer, Rue de la Science

Launch of Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation
Brochure

Speaker : *Commissioner Monika Wulf-Mathies*

Evening Free (to be confirmed)

THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER

10.00am **Plenary**

Chaired by Geoffrey Martin

The European Commission

President Jacques Santer

Response from:

The Rt. Hon. Paul Murphy MP

The Rt. Hon. David Trimble MP

Mr. Seamus Mallon MP

Minister for European Affairs, NIO

First Minister Designate, NI Assembly

*Deputy First Minister Designate,
NI Assembly*

11.00-11.30 **Coffee**

THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER (contd)

11.30

Plenary

Chaired by Jim Dougal / Geoffrey Martin

Decision Making in the Commission and the Role of the Cabinets

Speakers

Andrew Cahn

Cabinet Kinnock

Seamus Carroll

Cabinet Flynn

Ivan Rogers

Cabinet Brittan

Marc Van Heukelen

Cabinet Wulf-Mathies

1.00pm

Lunch

Speaker (1.15)

Carlo Trojan, Secretary General of the European Commission

2.30 - 4.00

Workshop E

Workshop F

**REGIONAL OFFICES :
STRUCTURE / ROLE**

**AGRICULTURE, RURAL,
FISHERIES**

(will take place at a
German Regional office)

Speakers

Mary Minch

Howard McNally

4.00pm

Visit to UK Representation

Presentation by Sir Stephen Wall

6.00pm

Return to Hotel

7.30 / 8.00pm **Buffet Supper**

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER

morning

Free time in Brussels

Return to Belfast

The Conference is part of the ongoing Transition Programme of the Northern Ireland Assembly and is organised by the European Commission Representation in Northern Ireland assisted by the Northern Ireland Centre in Europe.