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NEWS COVERAGE AT END OF CONFERENCE

DFA/5

Department of Foreign Affairs

When the conference ends it is proposed that:

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1. The five delegation leaders are available for a group picture. To avoid the necessity for relays of photographers, this would take place in the more spacious main hall with the leaders seated at a table in front of the fireplace. We would not allow this picture session to be prolonged.
  2. Mr Heath would then give a news conference in the Trevelyan Hall. His opening statement would be filmed and recorded for radio (RE would probably transmit it live) but no recording would be permitted during the question and answer session.
  3. Mr Heath would then go to the nearby Press Centre in Whitley Hall to give TV and radio interviews in the studios set up by BBC-RTE and ITV.
  - \* 4. Mr Cosgrave would follow Mr Heath with a news conference and the same pattern would apply - opening statement only recorded for transmission, questions and answers and then studio interviews at the Press Centre. (It will be necessary for a representative of the Irish Republic to be on hand at Trevelyan Hall during Mr Heath's news conference so that when it ends he can immediately arrange for Mr Cosgrave to come and give his)
  5. Mr Faulkner, Mr Fitt and Mr Napier would follow Mr Cosgrave with separate news conference, etc. Again it would facilitate the smooth-running of the operation if in each case a representative were on hand at the previous news conference with a view to alerting their Party leader.
  - \* 6. Both BBC-TV and ITN request interviews with Mr Heath and Mr Faulkner for national transmission. RTE request interviews with all five delegation leaders.
  7. BBC-TV Northern Ireland and Ulster Television request interviews with all five also. (Note that to avoid duplication BBC national and ITN have agreed to use part of the BBC Northern Ireland and Ulster Television interviews with Mr Cosgrave for their own news programmes)
  8. BBC national radio and London Broadcasting request interviews with all five leaders.
  9. COI request an interview with Mr Heath for overseas use.
  10. COI will record the entire news conferences for the record. Copies of Mr Heath's transcript will be distributed to London newspaper offices. It will be for the other delegations to decide if they require the same service. In any case full transcripts of the news conferences will be available to the delegations in due course.
  11. The UK information officers on duty at the news conferences will be Steve Andrews and Howard Beattie. Fred Corbett will supervise the interviews at the Press Centre.
  12. Please note that while all ITN's work will be on film cameras, the BBC-RTE setup is on OB equipment capable of "live" transmission should the availability of the leaders coincide with news programme slots.
- NIA  
Cowan



13. It has been established on behalf of Mr Cosgrave that he would not wish to do interviews in advance of his news conference and while Mr Heath was conducting his.
14. While the order of availability of leaders for interview obviously depends on the order of the news conferences, which organisation they go to first for interview would probably depend on the actual time of their availability in relation to established news programme slots (it should be emphasised that on the television side we are only concerned with two studios since BBC and RTE are sharing facilities).
15. Apart from the short news programmes at lunchtime, BBC TV and ITN have news bulletins around 5-5.30 and again at 9.50 and 9.30 respectively. As already mentioned, RE would probably transmit live on radio, scrapping existing programmes, and both BBC-TV Northern Ireland and Ulster Television have moveable plans for special local programmes early and/or late evening. BBC Radio Four Northern Ireland is also mounting special programmes.