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Mr Wally
To see PL.
18/1/84
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Meeting with Bishop Edward Daly of Derry, 10 January 1984

I met over dinner with Bishop Daly on 10 January. I have reported separately on his views about the proposed independent radio station in Derry, Northside Sound, and on the forthcoming Jimmy Young TV programme. Among the other points he made were the following:

- He is encouraged by the arrests of UDR men in Armagh before Christmas and in Ballymena this week, as well as by the arrests of RUC men, for serious crimes of a sectarian nature. The Chief Constable of the RUC, Sir John Hermon, has played the pivotal role in ensuring that these arrests were made and that impartial standards apply as much to the security forces as to anyone else. He would wish to see Sir John remain in his post.
- The calibre of the intake into the RUC, and especially into the UDR and the prison service, continues to decline. Many Protestants do not wish to expose themselves to the very real dangers which members of the forces face and the result is that an increasing number of the recruits are joining because they cannot find a job elsewhere or because of the attractive pay and overtime rates available to security force personnel. There are also those of UDA type who use membership of these forces in order to obtain weapons training etc. The younger members of the RUC tend to be strongly loyalist and frequently are of DUP type.
- He had made one of his regular visits to Magilligan Prison recently. The prison officers seemed to him to be still running the prison and in effect in revolt against the prison authorities. He understands the situation is the same in the Maze. He mentioned in passing that all the "hardened" terrorists are held in the Maze.
- Bishop Daly felt that Mrs Thatcher had made a mistake in visiting the UDR barracks at Drumadd in Co. Armagh before Christmas. Her visit had undermined, though not undone, the goodwill which resulted from the charging with serious crimes of eight UDR men from the same barracks. He feels, though he has no evidence, that the situation within the UDR may be similar to that within the prison service and that the purpose of the visit was to boost morale among the force.
- He said he would not favour the banning of Provisional Sinn Féin, who would in his view change their name if they were banned and would then challenge the authority of the State. He would be very

supportive of any legislation which would deal effectively with them. He agreed that the option of internment should not be ruled out though he didn't feel it should be introduced at present.

- He thinks the Gilmore supergrass trial will go ahead and his information is that Gilmore will not retract his evidence. He remains of the view that the persons charged on Gilmore's evidence were very influential persons within the IRA leadership in Derry and that as a result the IRA has been severely damaged within the Derry area. He knows little about Quigley, who is the other Derry supergrass, but has heard ^{nothing which would indicate} that he will retract his evidence. He remains convinced that Gilmore's father was not kidnapped but went voluntarily with his so-called captors.
- Bishop Daly said that he continues to be concerned at the extent of the alienation from constitutional nationalism among the youth. He sees no evidence in the Derry area of any decrease in SDLP support. He expects John Hume to comfortably win the European Election and claims he will get Protestant votes in the Derry area. He thought, however, that Provisional Sinn Féin would probably pick up the IIP seats at the next local government election (1985) and said they might get four seats on Derry Council. They could conceivably deny the SDLP their present majority. They and the IIP continue to embarrass the SDLP about the name of the city.
- The Provisionals are now beyond the influence of society. They will continue to utilise the media and publicity to the maximum possible extent. But their policies will remain unaffected by media comment. They do not, in their own view, need to be concerned with public attitudes towards them. In these circumstances where they are unamenable to public outrage it is impossible to forecast what either they or INLA will do.
- He is very unhappy with the submission made to the New Ireland Forum on behalf of the Episcopal Conference, a copy of which he had received that morning in the post. There are inconsistencies and differences between the five contributions which would have been removed had the Hierarchy a proper secretariat. Dr Ryan of Dublin wrote the section on pluralism and it was the Cardinal who wrote the introduction.

- The Bishop had spent a day with Boshop Cahal Daly of Down and Dromore in preparation for the latter's New Year's message, which received widespread coverage. He agrees with the views expressed in that message.
- We discussed at length recent demographic changes within the Bishop's diocese. In short, there has been a very significant increase in the Catholic population, which has altered the Catholic-Protestant balance. He thought that the new bridge in Derry will lead to an increase in the Catholic population on the North West side of the city of Derry.

Doc

D. Ó Ceallaigh

13 January 1984

cc ~~ASM~~
~~PSS~~

Wills

"Box"

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