



**An Chartlann Náisiúnta**  
**National Archives**

**Reference Code:** 2021/102/26

**Creator(s):** Department of Justice

**Accession Conditions:** Open

**Copyright:** National Archives, Ireland.  
May only be reproduced with  
the written permission of the  
Director of the National  
Archives.

SECURE CONFIDENTIAL FAX

To HQ  
For A/Sec O hUiginn

From London  
From Hayes

Sir Patrick Mayhew came over to me at a reception yesterday evening (9 July) in the NI Development Board and in the course of a lengthy conversation made the following points.

He was dismayed at continuing accusations that he was less than even-handed in his chairmanship of Strand One. He had a clear conscience on his handling of the talks. He did not feel it necessary to defend his probity to anyone. He was deeply annoyed at suggestions that he had been writing letters to Molyneaux behind the backs of the SDLP. He had sought to clear up this matter in his private conversations with the Irish Ministers during the Lancaster House meeting. He had also told Hume that there had been no private assurances given to Molyneaux. He referred to a meeting with Hume where he had been accompanied by John Chilcot, when he had called his Private Secretary into the room to verify that there had been no correspondence of the type suggested. He had written to Molyneaux concerning another matter other than the talks and had subsequently agreed to meet with him. Inevitably, Molyneaux had turned up with Paisley. At Molyneaux's request, his Private Secretary had given a copy of his letter to Molyneaux to Paisley and subsequently Molyneaux, for his own reasons, had given a further copy of this letter to Alderdice. (Not being familiar with the detail of this controversy, I found it difficult to make sense of the sequence of events as he described them to me, particularly since he refused to say what was in his letter to Molyneaux. The essential point, however, of the conversation was the vehemence of his denial that there had been any underhand dealings with the Unionists and his deep frustration at what he perceives as the continued questioning of his good faith.)

He was highly critical of Hume. He found it increasingly difficult to understand him. He was coming to the view that Hume secretly did not want the talks to succeed. He lost no opportunity to goad the Unionists. From Mayhew's point of view this had been the most frustrating aspect of Strand One. He referred to Hume's efforts to go on his holidays and also to his veiled threats that he would refuse to revisit Strand One. Something will have to be done with him. If he continues the way he is going, he will wreck the whole process.

Seamus Mallon, on the other hand, he found to be a much more straightforward and reliable interlocutor. (This represents a change of heart on Mayhew's part since Andrew MacKay told me last week that Mayhew had mentioned to him very recently that he found Mallon difficult and awkward to deal with). He jokingly referred to Mallon's tip for the 5.15 at Newmarket on last Tuesday which, he said, had made money for every official from the messenger upwards at the NIO.

He spoke of Frank Miller's piece in the Irish Times of 8 July, referring in particular to the comment that he still had to earn the trust which Brooke had bequeathed him. He sometimes wondered what he needed to do to establish his credentials.

Among other points which he made were:

The Lancaster House meeting had gone extremely well. The Irish team had every reason to be well pleased. He felt he had personally built up a good rapport with the Irish Ministers. He understood our position much better, particularly on Articles 2 and 3. He had had some very useful private conversations with our Minister and the Minister for Justice. He had written to the Minister earlier that day suggesting a Strand Three meeting in Dublin before the end of July. He hoped very much we could agree to this.