



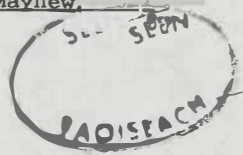
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| <b>Reference Code:</b>       | 2021/94/38   |
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*M.M. [unclear]*  
*13/7*  
*Teach.*  
*To see [unclear]*  
*18/6*

Telephone conversation between Minister Andrews  
and Secretary of State Mayhew.

17 June, 1992



(Initial greetings)

Minister: As you know we were anxious to be helpful and cooperative and we want to continue in that particular direction. In relation to Friday, what is the position in relation to the DUP if a Ministerial presence manifests itself.

Mayhew: I hope that that would be perfectly fine. More difficult and important really is the nature, and their understanding of the nature of the meeting.

Minister: Of course the meeting would be to prepare a general agenda.

Mayhew: That's its title, yes and it would be part, but not all its effect, because as I said to you on Friday, the scheme is put forward by Hume and by Molyneaux with a view to enabling them to explore the matters that would be germane to Strand Two, so that they can get the reassurances that they need to go formally to Strand Two. Now Hume of course wants them to go to Strand Two straight away, and indeed I should be very pleased if they would go to Strand Two straight away, but he has accepted that they are not going to do so, that they mean what they say, unless they can be reassured on a couple of things really and for better or worse one has to, in my judgement, accept that as a fact. I don't think, if I can put it like this without feeling discourteous, it matters whether there is a Ministerial presence but what does matter is that the meeting should be able to fulfil that purpose. I would then want to proceed to Strand Two formally after I had

formally consulted with them in the terms of the 26 March statement, recognising, as we always have done, that in the course of Strand Two, or indeed Three, it is possible to revisit Strand One if that's expedient.

Minister: So really what you're saying is that as for Friday's meeting on the basis of us seeing it and you seeing it as the preparation of a general agenda that you're not really concerned whether it's a Ministerial or ...

Mayhew: ... Well I would love to see you of course and I'll be there but I think that provided that your officials, as they would be, had as it were plenipotentiary powers in the sense that they wouldn't say, well we're not quite sure what the line is, then I think that that would be wholly practicable and perhaps the better plan might be that we would have officials in there on Friday.

Minister: Officials only on Friday ...

Mayhew: Of course when we have the Strand Three formation meeting which my statement referred to, then that would have to be Ministers because Strand Three is Ministers.

Minister: It is of course. May I just ask you a few questions if you don't mind. For example, on Friday who would represent the United Kingdom?

Mayhew: Well that's open for us to discuss. If you stayed away you might prefer it that I did and that it was simply a Ministerial team. On the other hand I might have a better chance, or Jeremy Hanely even better, because he has known them really for longer, of keeping the Unionists in hand better than if it was officials only.

Minister: And what about the DUP. Who would represent them do you think?

Mayhew: I don't know. I think it would be Paisley and one or two others. I would guess that. But that would be for them. As long as they come in a formation that permits them to get the reassurance that the object is that they should, then I don't think it matters to us who comes. I think Paisley probably will want to and its probably better that he should, given the troubles that he has had.

Minister: The Government at the moment over here are considering the question of participation and this is really to get the atmosphere. Clearly the meeting is of great political significance for us all and official level representation might give the wrong signal, but equally it could be said ...

Mayhew: ... I'll tell you what David, I think that it ought to be symmetrical and if you're not going to come on Friday then I think that it's probably better that I don't and that we're represented by John Chilcot, our Permanent Under Secretary here and perhaps there could be Mr. Dorr from your side or Mr. O hUiginn, I don't know. Paisley I now learn won't come on Friday which will make that easier.

Minister: What do you consider Patrick the most helpful approach on our part?

Mayhew: Well I on the whole, David, think that the most helpful would be, having thought about it, I think it's only by a margin, but I think the most helpful would be if Friday were conducted at official level on each side. I think so.

Minister: Well fair enough Patrick. Can you give us a little time to mull it over and think it out, because we're in the middle of this wretched referendum which we are all hopeful will be positive and I think it will be. Really my mind is certainly on that chance and naturally concentrated on the Europe position ...

Mayhew: Well I'm just looking. This course (?) is a most desperately difficult one at the moment and I'm having a series of truculent letters from Paisley at the moment and I'm going to have to try to start to calm that one down as best I can. On Friday Paisley, I'm told, won't be coming but Robinson would probably lead for the DUP. Now that would be a very desirable thing. Robinson is twice as intelligent as Paisley and I think much more committed to seeing us into Strand Two and making a success of the thing. Paisley himself is keen on getting into it but he is a much more volatile state of affairs and so I think the right thing to do would be to, if I may suggest it for Mr. Dorr to lead for you and John Chilcot to lead for us. John Chilcot has been in on this process right from the beginning and so he is well able, he deals very well with these people. The more I think of it the better I think that that is.

Minister: You mentioned Strand Three meetings, I think that we'll decide on a day or dates for that ... we won't decide that until after Friday.

Mayhew: Can I tell you a difficulty I've got with Paisley about that David? I've had a letter from him overnight in which he said, I replied to his first query in that context by saying ... first of all he wanted to know what briefs <sup>in</sup> Sir Ninian Stephen had had and I said we've simply sent him those papers which are in the

public domain which are germane to these talks. He also said what arrangements do you propose for the pre-Strand Three meeting which is adverted to in the Friday night statement. I said I'd like to defer the answer to that second question for the time being because I wanted to talk to you about it. I had a letter over night. So since you are deferring answering my question to Strand Three my party will defer its arrangements for coming to a meeting or discussion. So I'm going to have to say something to him if we're going to get him there. This is the kind of country we are in. Now I was proposing to say, subject to talking to you, that we would wish to have, and that jointly we intended to have a pre-Strand Three meeting in the terms foreshadowed in my statement on Friday pretty soon.

Minister: Pretty soon I would say ... I wouldn't want to put a specific day on it.

Mayhew: Frankly I think we are certainly going to need .. supposing this meeting starts on Friday I think it's inevitable that it will go to Monday because what is necessary I believe is that they should have a framework in which they can talk to each other in the margins. Wherever we've made progress, as I think I've probably told you, was in my absence. So I think we've got to have, and I hope Ninian Stephen will agree with this, there's got to be pretty unorthodox and flexible handling of this occasion so that they can have plenty of time to do just that. So it will in my guess go certainly to Monday and I would suggest that we should anticipate Tuesday for what we are now discussing. I do need to give him something pretty specific otherwise he will take it as an excuse for not coming. His party were shouting at him - I was telling you about that -



and they're in a very very sore and volatile state.

Minister: Well these are matters that can be decided. I don't think I can give you any decision in relation to it just at this moment because I want to discuss it with various people. And I can see your difficulty of course.

Mayhew: Will you just bear in mind David that I have to hand him a reply today so if you could discuss it with your people and then give me your idea of how I could reply to him.

Minister: I agree that Paisley is one of the central figures but you have to take account of our political problems here at the moment and today may be too soon. We are trying to save Europe, literally, if that's not too arrogant to suggest ...

Mayhew: But I think it's in all our interests that we get into the strand, we get talking about Strand Three as soon as possible. I'm not going to get it but his particular need, and he's not alone in that - the UUP want it as well - and so I do propose ...

Minister: Patrick, we will do everything we can to help and cooperate so let's not make any decisions just at the moment and let us have to time to reflect. I have to go on the radio shortly now here Patrick.

Mayhew: Just before you go. I think we should have our pre-Strand Three on Tuesday if you could just bear that in mind in your discussions with your people and then maybe you could let us know during the afternoon.

Minister: We will certainly do that through my good self or

through officials. We'll give you our thoughts  
Patrick. Nice to talk to you. Goodbye.