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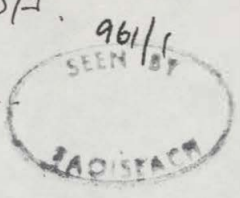
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22 July 1992

TO: HQ FROM: BELFAST Pages: 2
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Talks - Summary Report, Wednesday 22 July 1992

1. The plenary began with a discussion of the problem of leaks. A statement (attached) was issued by the Chairman with the permission of the Heads of Delegation.
2. Questioning resumed of SOS. Paisley queried him on possible Tripartite arrangements for EC coordination, on reason why status of NI was not defined in Anglo-Irish Agreement, and on the contradiction between acceptance in Article One of the Agreement of a majority as the decisive criterion for the status of NI whereas majority rule was refused for devolution. Mayhew's answers were in general terms, but he pointedly sidestepped queries relating to the Agreement on the grounds he could not be held responsible for its drafting. Mallon pressed SOS to accept that NI was not a normal society and that the Unionist majority built into the very formation of Northern Ireland meant that majority rule could never work democratically there. In other questions he showed that Mayhew was in fact partisan on many issues e.g. in saying, that Articles 2 and 3 were "unhelpful" when in fact Northern nationalists took a different view. Again Mayhew's answers tended to be vague and generally failed either to recognise or to address a series of basic points put to him by Mallon. They confirmed however, his alignment with Unionists on the constitutional issue, and, to a slightly lesser extent perhaps, on the forms of devolution.
3. In the afternoon Paisley took the stand. He went out on a limb with an uncompromising position that Articles 2 and 3 had to be amended before anything else could be agreed. Irish Ministers pointed out that this would not and could not be done: the issue could only be decided in a referendum, which could not be considered in isolation from a wider package. They stated that this was moreover a new condition being imposed by Paisley and inconsistent with the agreed basis for talks. Paisley later backed down from this position. The remainder of the session was taken up with (often blustering) replies by Paisley to questions, mostly from the Irish Side.

Ends