



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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IMMEDIATE

cc PSM Joint Sec
PSS Counselors At 1
- Mr. J. O'Sullivan
- Mr. A. Brennan
- Mr. P. Mayhew O/T

SECURE FAX

Handwritten notes:
11/11/92
McTubhan
Sullivan
12/1/92
P O Sullivan
11.11.92

For A/Sec O hUiginn
cc Joint Secretary

From Hayes
Date 11 November 1992

The Secretary of State phoned Kevin McNamara earlier this morning and gave him some sense of how he proposes to approach this afternoon's statement. According to McNamara, Mayhew will adopt an upbeat line, avoiding any recriminations. He will focus on the progress that has been made and underline the commitment of the parties to continue to meet informally and, according to McNamara, speak of his hope that the process can be carried forward in the New Year.

He told McNamara of his own belief that they could have got Heads of Agreement if "the Irish side hadn't taken their eye off the ball". McNamara understood this to be a reference to the General Election. McNamara stressed that Mayhew made this comment without any sense of recrimination.

He told Mayhew that he would be pressing him for a statement of the Government's position. According to McNamara, Mayhew replied that the Government would endorse anything that was agreed in Strand One or indeed anything agreed in Strand Two. From this, McNamara concluded that there is no intention on the British part, at least in the short term, to produce any unilateral initiative.

In his own statement, McNamara proposes to touch on the following points:

- He will thank Sir Ninian;
- Welcome the progress that has been made in addressing the three primary relationships;
- Note the undertaking to continue bilateral talks;
- He will go on to say that the position of all the parties to the talks is well known with the exception of that of the British Government;
- He will recall Peter Brooke's statement to the effect that Britain has no special strategic interest in NI and will ask if this is still the case.
- He will conclude by asking Mayhew to give an undertaking that there will be no alteration in the status quo either at Westminster or in NI without the consent of all the parties. This, he hopes, will put paid, for the time being at least, to speculation about an NI Select Committee.

We will report later today on the statement and subsequent debate.

cc A/S Shlygin
Tant See
P. Hennessy

PRESS RELEASE

FROM KEVIN MCNAMARA MP

THE LABOUR PARTY REGRETS THE FAILURE OF THE TALKS

The Labour Party regrets that the Talks have not come to a more constructive agreement about the future of Northern Ireland within the island of Ireland. They join with the Parties of the talks in paying tribute to the role of Sir Ninian Stephen and his staff in helping to facilitate the discussions on a bi-lateral and multi-lateral level between the Parties in the discussions.

It is unfortunate that it has not been possible to arrive at an accommodation between the Parties, but it is noticeable in the statement that the attitude of Her Majesty's Government has not been made more clear. It is also regrettable that the occasion of the Irish general election has not been used as an opportunity to suspend the Talks in preparation for a fresh round of negotiations as happened in the British general election, because the constitutional Parties in the Republic of Ireland would wish to see the Talks continued.

The Labour Party shares the view of the two governments that further dialogue is both necessary and desirable, and welcome the statement of the four Northern Ireland Parties that they will enter into informal consultations with a view to seeking a way forward and will do their utmost to encourage the Parties to continue those discussions. Nevertheless the Labour Party believes that the three strands of the discussions which was originally agreed for the Agenda for the Talks is the most constructive way forward.

In the absence of any agreement between the parties, the Anglo-Irish Agreement remains in force. It is the responsibility of the two sovereign governments to ensure that the machinery of that Agreement is utilised to ensure the best interests of the Island of Ireland not only to overcome terrorism, from whatever quarter it comes, but for the economic, social and political well-being of the Island of Ireland.