



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

Reference Code: 2021/47/27

Creator(s): Department of Foreign Affairs

Accession Conditions: Open

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

PA on FD. Jevs. File

AN RÚNAÍOCHT ANGLA-ÉIREANNACH

ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT

FAX

PAGES: BÉALFEIRSTE
2

BELFAST

17 SEPTEMBER 1993

TO HQ
FOR JEAN MCMANUS

FROM BELFAST
FROM D FEELY

Press Conference given by DUP Leader, Dr. Ian Paisley
and Deputy Leader Peter Robinson,
on Friday evening, 17 September 1993
following their meeting with PM John Major

Presenter

We go live to Downing Street where Ian Paisley is giving a short press conference.

Mr. Paisley: we will have to abide and have patience because we have to wait 'til the Prime Minister reads them, until he studies them. We may have to have talks with the Secretary of State to answer questions that the Prime Minister will want us to answer about certain parts of the document and then we will be coming back to meet the Prime Minister and hear his final response. Now as I have a Selection meeting tonight in Portadown for my European seat, I owe it to my constituents to be there so that I am duly selected by the democratic process. Even leaders have to submit to that process in the Democratic Unionist Party.

Question: Does your plan though allow for dealing with the three strands of the relationship?

Mr. Paisley: Yes, it does.... that's a fair answer.

Mr. Robinson: I don't think we're going into the detail of the proposal that we have. It is a proposal that is capable of making progress in what is a log-jam in Northern Ireland. No details can be given at this stage.

Question: Am I right though in thinking that it is a structure for talks and not a proposal for devolution ?

Mr. Robinson: You wouldn't be on the right wavelength if you said that. You would not yes ?

Question: Dr. Paisley, did the Prime Minister say anything in response about the Hume/Adams talks?

Mr. Paisley: He said that he would do with the talks with John Hume what he would do with the talks with us. He would be making no statement whatsoever.

Question: Dr. Paisley, were you encouraged at all by Mr. Reynold's statement that he would be prepared to put Articles 2 and 3 to the electorate in the Irish Republic in the event of a successful outcome to talks?

Mr. Paisley: No! That's there's nothing new in that at all. I think that Mr. O'Malley has answered him today in the press and so has Conor Cruise O'Brien and in fact we couldn't put (it) any better than Conor Cruise O'Brien has said: "what he wants you to do is sit down, destroy Articles 2 and 3 and destroy the union and have a united Ireland" and then he'll say "Paisley, you don't need to worry about Articles 2 and 3, we've got what we've been looking for." You know, that's nonsense. He must think that the Northern Ireland people are particularly naive. Now gentlemen, I have to go

Question: I want to know one thing - is that document a document which contains your formula for a solution to the problem of Northern Ireland or simply a means of talking?

Mr. Paisley: This document is a document which gives the way - the recipe - for breaking the log-jam so that we can have talks on a basis that have a chance of succeeding. It is the achievable alternative that we have put. These talks cannot, these talks that are at present envisaged on the old structure will not succeed and everybody knows that, even you journalists when you speak to me, be honest now, you say, "no, they can't succeed".

Presenter

Dr. Paisley speaking live in Downing Street there. Clearly the DUP deputation just went into Downing Street very briefly to hand the Prime Minister their formula for progress. You heard Dr. Paisley mentioning that document; he hopes the Prime Minister will read it, digest it, and then they will have a meeting to discuss it.