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OIFIG RÚNAÍ AN UACHTARÁIN  
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 8

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT  
DUBLIN 8

*Discreetly  
Do see please  
— related*

*papers are  
underneath. JH 15/26*

*NOB Let's answer 91  
6278.*

*02/15/93*

15 June 1993

Mr. Brian McCarthy,  
Assistant Secretary to the Government.

Dear Brian,

I have shown your letter of 15 June, 1993, and accompanying fax to the President and, while many of the details raised therein can only be address in the context of the draft programme being prepared by John Kennedy, I have discussed the following matters with the President arising from our telephone conversation:

1. The President will defer to security advice and stay at the Culloden as requested.
2. It is not possible to curtail the West Belfast function as the various elements are important e.g. the entertainment is the opportunity for the community to celebrate the occasion and the meetings provide the President with the essential opportunity to listen to the community organisations as they inform her about their community and activities and achievements .
3. The President is concerned at the suggestion that there would be "saturation" security coverage in West Belfast and at the proposal to search invitees. She feels that these would be seen as provocative and could exacerbate rather than alleviate the security situation. She is aware that this is a very important occasion for the community in West Belfast and that they will make every effort to ensure that it is successful. Her wish is that the security presence be discreet.

Similarly she feels that the searching of guests at that venue would be provocative and does not believe that there is a threat to her personal safety vis-a-vis those who will be invited. The usual practice is the organisers to be responsible for ensuring that only those invited are admitted - possibly under the supervision of a member of the security forces if thought desirable but there would be no personal searches of invited guests.

4. On the matter of the invitees you will see from the latest list sent to you yesterday that efforts have been made to "round it out". However, there are limits to what can be accomplished in this regard.

Concerns in relation to some names on the list are appreciated but it is difficult to avoid their inclusion on such a broad community occasion in view of their involvement in some of the community groups. To seek to have them excluded would create separate problems and generate for them a degree of publicity that would be both undesirable on its own merits and detract from the main purpose of the occasion.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Ryan  
Secretary to the President

15 June, 1993.

Mr. Peter Ryan,  
Secretary to the President,  
Áras an Uachtaráin.

Dear Peter,

I enclose a copy of a confidential FAX which the Department of Foreign Affairs received last night from the Secretariat in Belfast.

You will note in particular the comments in relation to the West Belfast function - its duration and the composition of the guest list. You will wish to consider these and other aspects of the FAX message.

Yours sincerely,



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Brian McCarthy,  
Assistant Secretary  
to the Government.

- Hill
- Meeting of West Belfast
- Security (military/Police)

B 15/6

cc: AtSe Obligin  
Mr. J. Kennedy, DT, Taoiseach.  
JUL 14/6/93

SECURE FAX NO. 727

14 June, 1993

PAGES : 5

TO : HQ

FROM : BELFAST

FOR : Declan Kelleher

FROM : Sean Farrell

IMMEDIATE

President's visit to Northern Ireland

1. The British side pressed for a further meeting earlier this afternoon on the above, with a view to seeking to clarify outstanding points. Present on the British side were the British Joint Secretary, Mr. Williams and his Deputy Ms. Collins, Mike Maxwell of the Central Secretariat, together with two NIO officials, including Ms. Valerie Steele and two RUC officers.
2. The meeting ranged over the outline schedule and information which we have provided to date to the British side. The RUC laid emphasis on the security aspects of the visit and conveyed their misgivings and recommendations. In addition, Williams voiced British concerns about the content of the group the President was scheduled to meet in West Belfast, the amount of time allowed for the visit to West Belfast and the possible reactions here on the image of the President among the whole community (see paras. 9 & 10 below).

3. Arrival Belfast City Airport

The intention is that the President will be greeted by whichever NI Minister is on duty (possibly the SoS) as well as by the Lord Lieutenant of Down, Colonel Elliot Wilson. In their planning re cars, the RUC will plan for the already notified number of six for the official party (i.e. anyone extra is not included in their plans).

4. Arrival NI Voluntary Trust.

I explained that David Cooke was in London until today and it was hoped to finalise details of the visit after his return. One question re the "light refreshments" is whether they will constitute lunch, since schedule around lunch time appears extremely crowded. Will the meeting be confined to the Board and staff only or will there be outsiders. (Generally, for this and other locations the RUC are pressing for a list of those present). Williams made the observation that an hour seemed quite a long time to spend at the NIVT.

K



5. Arrival Downpatrick

The British side are anxious to know as soon as possible how many venues would be involved here. Would it be the Council Offices or the Museum, or both. They asked, re a possible visit to St. Patrick's grave, whether this would entail the laying of a wreath or be just a simple photocall. They also presumed the local MP would be invited. Again, the RUC requested details of who would be invited to meet the President (just the Council members or others?). The point re lunch was made again with the British side considering that the time available did not permit of anything more than a light refreshment.

6. Possible other venues

The British side recalled that John Kennedy had mentioned during the course of last week's meeting that there was a possibility of the President making other calls either on route to or away from Downpatrick. Grateful if you could indicate whether any further calls are proposed.

7. Visit to West Belfast

The British side asked firstly what the location for the visit to West Belfast was to be pointing out that the address of the FCC was 6 Kennedy Way. They had been unable to locate anything corresponding to "the White House" at 50 Kennedy Way. They were concerned, from the suggested timetable that they had received from us, which contains references to a visit to a college (complete with stage area and an area for holding stalls) that the venue for the President's visit may be somewhere else in West Belfast other than on Kennedy Way. They emphasised that they need to know as soon as possible what the venue is in view of the considerable security implications surrounding any visit to that area.

Whitebrook

8. Security implications for West Belfast

The RUC officer, Inspector Hamilton, representing the close protection detail which would be looking after the President, explained that, quite apart from the issue of adequate protection for the President, the issue also arose of adequate protection for the RUC. He suggested (with the full support of Martin Williams) that the two hours scheduled to be spent there was a long time (it caused some nervousness). Standard operating procedures, which would apply at all venues required, that the building be checked out and secured in advance. The RUC would need a list of those attending and would also have to make arrangements for the searching of individuals. In addition there would be need for a heavy visible RUC presence outside the building. He emphasised that "other people", as he put it, would not be allowed to run the show. Some possible locations could require,

in addition, an Army presence, hence the necessity of finding out as soon as possible where the event was to take place. If the venue was Whiterock College (a ref. to the word used in the draft programme), then this was "another ball game".

9. Concerns about the list of invitees

Williams expressed a number of concerns regarding the proposed list of people to be present. He echoed the RUC's request for a list of those attending to be provided as soon as possible. Re the list of organisations to be invited (or represented) he observed that there was concern on the British side about certain of the groups represented, some of which were not only "too close to Sinn Fein" but also "too close to SF activists". He repeated his remarks made some days ago re certain of what appeared to be the core group of six organisations and expressed concern whether these had the overall responsibility for the arrangements for the visit. He asked had all the organisations named been approached and who had suggested the list.

10. Williams then went on to state that the British side were concerned at the effect which a lengthy visit to West Belfast would have on the image of the President elsewhere in NI. The British side had already received representations from moderate nationalists concerning the nature of some of those the President was scheduled to meet. He emphasised that the British side had considered the matter very carefully before raising this issue. He stated that a visit of this nature by the President would undoubtedly have political implications in Northern Ireland, especially if there appeared to be a concentration on West Belfast. The atmosphere here he described as "excitable" and suggested that there could be some "destabilisation" as a result of the visit. Therefore he went on to tell me that, if the list of organisations he had seen was the list of those the President was to meet (including as it did some very extreme Sinn Fein ones), then he would have to warn the Secretary of State regarding this because of the possible political and security implications. It was interesting that he did not invite Maxwell, who did not intervene throughout the meeting, to come up with some alternative or additional suggestions for groups or personalities which the President might meet, as suggested to us earlier today (see B. O'Brien's SF714 to Mr. O hUiginn).

*what  
is the  
m.p.v.?*

11. Hotel

I conveyed to the British side the regret of the President to the invitation from the SoS to overnight at Hillsborough Castle and went on to explain that we wished for the President to be accommodated in the Forte Crest. The RUC expressed some concern with this decision.

Hillsborough would have been ideal from the security point of view and the Culloden would be ideal as a location outside Belfast. He expressed, therefore, dismay at the suggestion of the Forte Crest, pointing out that it was in the city, that there had been increased loyalist violence over the last year and there was always the possibility of loyalist activity to embarrass and/or inconvenience the President and asked that we again look at the Culloden, which he described as a "much more secure" location. (Ms. Collins later telephoned to suggest that in her view the Forte Crest was "dangerous").

12. Bairdresser

Valerie Steele indicated she would ask the hotel to suggest a hairdresser to come in if there was not one resident.

13. Dinner at Queens

Williams conveyed to me that the Secretary of State was expected to attend the dinner but it was not clear whether he intended to speak. In that connection Ms. Steele had been approached by a Mr. Nabney, of the Solicitors Group, who had enquired what he should put into his speech. I informed them that our suggestion was that the President would speak alone before dinner. Williams has undertaken to check re further speeches and the photocollary aspects of this. The RUC, incidentally, advised that standard security procedures would be put into operation with regard to Queens as well as at other locations.

14. Coalisland

The British side had been informed that the intention was that the President visit Coalisland Heritage Centre and noted that 45 minutes only was allowed for this visit. They presumed that the IFI would be represented, together with various other groups who had been involved in the funding of the project and that, as elsewhere, the local MP was being invited. DICK McKenzie, an Under-Secretary from the Department of the Environment NI, would attend. The RUC again emphasises they would need to have a list of persons attending and would also require to search and secure the building before the visit.

15. Ballance House

The British side presumed that here, also, a list of guests would be available. They expressed the expectation that the local Mayor or Chairman of the Local Council would be invited, together with the MP (the Mayor of Lisburn is Seamus Close while Jim Molyneaux is the MP).



16. Arrival Aldergrove

The British side will make arrangements to book the Jet Centre as well as a room for a press conference. Valerie Steele enquired whether we intended to separately accredit journalists for this. I thought not, but it occurs to me that it might be as well for someone from our side, either our own Press Section, or the GIS, for example, to liaise with the NIO Press Office re the modalities. Perhaps you can let me know your reaction to this.

17. Departure Aldergrove

The Sos or his representative would see off the President. On these occasions the British normally field also, the Lord Lieutenant of Co. Antrim, Sir Richard Dobbs (or a Deputy).

18. Follow-up action



Both Williams and the RUC emphasised the need for a proper reconnaissance in connection with the visit from the point of view of security. This should take place at the earliest possible opportunity. The major problem arises over the West Belfast portion of the visit. Given that there are only three clear days before the visit commences I have suggested that we seek to start tomorrow. The British side have suggested 14.00 hrs., meeting at the Secretariat but appeared to doubt whether it could all be done in one day. In that case a second session would be held on Wednesday afternoon.

19. As we are guests of the British side for dinner this evening, any information you can supply before 19.45 hrs. would be most welcome.

20. The Garda can travel in the President's car.

## GUEST LIST

* Eileen Howell	Falls Community Council ] X
Elizabeth Grovas	Falls Community Council ]
Mary McMillen	Greater West Belfast Community Association ] X
Michael Fenton	Greater West Belfast Community Association ]
Geraldine McAteer	West Belfast Anti-Poverty Lobby ] X
Dairdre McManus	West Belfast Community Festival ] X
Danny Power	West Belfast Community Festival ] X
Oonagh Marron	Falls Womens Centre ] X
Maura McGrory	Falls Women Centre ]
Ciaran de Bariod	Upper Springfield Resource Centre ] X
Margaret Keenan	Upper Springfield Resource Centre ] X
Jane Craven	Belfast Institute of Further Education
Elsie Best	Conway Education Centre
Deei Wilson	Springhill Community House
Mike Tomlinson	West Belfast Economic Forum
Jane Donaldson	Equality
Pat Morgan	Foundry Regeneration Trust
Gerry Campbell	Obair
Joe Handron	Member of Parliament
Alfie Hannaway	Sean Mac Bride Industrial Centre
Noelle Ryan	Springhill Community Trust
Jim Neeson	Falls Taxi Association
Eamon Harra	Phoenix Trust
Gerry Adams	Founder, West Belfast Festival
Emma Groves	United Campaign against Plastic Bullets
Mary Brady	St James's Tenants Association
Michael Doherty	Lenadoon Community Forum
Tony Holland	Upper Springfield Community Forum
Marie Gribbon	Confederation of Community Groups

Marie Osborne	West Belfast Parent Youth Support Group
Sally McErlain	West Belfast Parent Youth Support Group
Adale Teague	Whiterock Pear Education Group
Shiela O'Hara	Woodlands Community Garden Project
Annie Armstrong	Twinbrook Lynx Youth Project
Carmel McCavana	Northern Ireland Childrens Enterprise
Geraldine O'Reagan	Newhill Community Centre
Fra McCann	Divis Joint Development Committee
Rosaleen Davidson	West Belfast Health Monitoring Committee
Brendan McCarthy	Chair, Interunion Stewards Committee, RVH
John Carlin	West Belfast Enterprise Board
Sean Maguire	Musician
Oliver Kelly	Gaelic Athletic Association
Fred Heatly	Local Historian
Michael Hawkins	Holy Trinity Boxing Club
Jim Nelson	Gaelic Athletic Association
Georoid O' Carolain	La Newspaper
Noirin NI Cleirigh	Glór na nGael
Fergus O'Haire	Mear scoil Bail Feirste
Aine Andrews	Gaelscoil na bhFál
Anna Mac an Iogair	Sunscoil
Tarry Enright	Black Mountain Environmental Society
Sue Fentel	Cumann Sugartha na bPaisti
Liam Donnelly	Creative Writers Group
Nan Joyce	Travellers Support Group
Sean McKernan	Belfast Exposed
Kevin McLoughlin	West Belfast Access Group
Rev Gary Mason	Springfield Road Methodist Church
Rev Barry Dodds	St. Michaels Church of Ireland
Rev Ken Doherty	Vauxvale Presbyterian Church

P.J. McCorry	Solicitor
Catrina Buzne	Centre for Research and Documentation
Father Alex Reid	Clonard Monastery
Toby McMahon	Local Playwright
Bill Rolston	Author
Frank Dempsey	Carrick Hill Residents Association
Joe Nolan	West Belfast Writers Group
John Fusco	Clonard Residents Association
1 representative	Fallswater Centre
Joe Kennedy	Gaelic Athletic Association
Patrick Gallagher	" " "
One representative	Camogie team