



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

Reference Code: 2021/95/34

Creator(s): Department of the Taoiseach

Accession Conditions: Open

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

Extract from A1's Brief for period ending 11 June 1993



(25)

PST
PSS
John Hill
Counsellor A1
Box
10/6

I had a brief word with Mr. Hume yesterday on his meeting earlier that day with Sir Patrick Mayhew:

1. At the outset Mr. Hume said that he was aware of hostile briefings by Mr. Mayhew, including that "he ran his party like Mussolini" and suggested there was a lack of candour in Mr. Mayhew's professed sympathy for him. Mr. Mayhew apparently assured him that this remark had been one of admiration for Mr. Hume's firm grip on his party.
2. Hume then said that successive British Governments had made the mistake of attempting merely a facilitator role in Northern Ireland and seeking some half-way house between Paisley and himself, which would not prove acceptable to anyone. If the SDLP had been simply negotiating, they would have proposed a united Ireland and worked back from there. They were instead interested in a solution. In that spirit they had put forward an analysis and proposals based on it. No one had refuted the analysis or seriously discussed the proposals. He had explained to Mayhew that the proposed external nominees could be people from Northern Ireland, e.g. a unionist politician by the British Government, a prominent business person by the Irish Government, etc. He argued that the SDLP had led the way in shifting the focus of nationalism from territory to people and that their idea of a joint referendum is now widely canvassed and has been endorsed by the Taoiseach and the Tanaiste. He stressed the need for the British to make clear where they were going. He argued that unionist alienation related predominantly to a mistrust of British guarantees. He pointed to the Anglo-Irish Agreement as having vindicated the predictions he made at the time that it would bring the unionists to negotiations.

3. I asked him what proposal, if any, Mayhew had put to him. Mr. Hume said his main question was whether Hume would talk privately to Molyneaux. Hume said he had in fact done so the previous evening and it was standard practice for Northern politicians to talk on items of common interest such as economics, etc. Hume had pointed out however that Molyneaux had instructed the UUP representative in Derry not to accept office, since the situation redounded too much to the credit of the SDLP.

4. Hume, who had been listening to the Lamont speech earlier, had a pessimistic view of Mr. Major's political prospects.

Seán

Sean O hUiginn

10 June, 1993