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cc ~~had the meeting~~
DJ Mansergh
DJR 13/10/93

Ken Maginnis MP

While in Dungannon yesterday on International Fund matters I had occasion to meet with Ken Maginnis.

Martin Smyth's Remarks

Maginnis whom I had known previously invited me back to his house and gave me a copy of Martin Smyth's Press Release on the possibility of Sinn Fein been included in future negotiations (copy attached). Maginnis said he had spoken to Jim Molyneaux late the previous night and he had been asked to clarify and to put some distance between UUP policy and Rev. Smyth's remarks.

Maginnis said the genesis of the statement arose from a UUP Parliamentary meeting on Thursday last. He himself had not been party to much of the discussion as he was called out of the room to give an interview on the Hume/Adams talks. At the meeting it was decided that the UUP should put out a statement calling for restraint from Protestant paramilitaries. Martin Smyth, as Director of Information and David Trimble MP were mandated to draft a statement. In Maginnis view a problem subsequently arose when "Martin got carried away" and instead of ending the statement at the end of the third paragraph he introduced language to emphasise his international knowledge by drawing comparisons with the ANC and the PLO. Smyth had been drawn out even further in a BBC interview. In doing so, Maginnis said Smyth had gone beyond the depths of his limited political competence.

Maginnis said that there is a UUP leadership perception that Smyth had gone too far. Moreover, his standing in the Orange Order may now be undermined and his ambitions for the Party leadership damaged.

While I was with Maginnis, he conducted by telephone a interview on BBC current affairs programme "Play Back" in which he attempted to draw back from Rev. Smyth's statement by

remarking that a total cessation of violence by the IRA would be required and saying that Martin Smyth had dangerously condensed his remarks. In "off the record" comments before he went on air Maginnis cast doubt on the Rev. Smyth capabilities and competence.

UUP Overtures

Maginnis raised with me Liam Clarke's article in last week's Sunday Times speculating that an UUP delegation might visit Dublin. He said that article was well sourced and that the UUP is awaiting a positive response from Dublin. He expects that he and Jim Nicholson would be deputed to go to Dublin.

Breakdown of Talks

Maginnis in a rambling assessment of the Talks said that, in his view, there was a lack of generosity in Dublin's response last year which led to the breakdown of the talks. At the time of Sunningdale it was felt in Unionist circles that the Southern politicians side had run rings around their Northern counterparts. During the talks, the UUP perception was that the Irish Government were pre-occupied by electoral considerations at the expense of political strategy in the Talks process.

Maginnis was particularly critical of John Hume and said he had shown no leadership and was "tired" throughout the talks. Maginnis asked if we knew that on one occasion he was forced to ask Jim Molyneaux to accompany him to a meeting with the SDLP to assert his (Maginnis) authority given the extent of John Hume's whispering against him in the corridors.

DUP

Maginnis asserted that the DUP spent more time researching what the UUP had said instead of establishing their own policies. He felt comfortable challenging them at every opportunity and said he had a quotation from 1971 when Paisley asserted that all he wanted from the Irish Government was

reference to the Catholic Church taken out of the
Constitution. He was looking forward to challenging Paisley
on this in the near future

Brendan Scannell

Brendan Scannell
International Fund for Ireland
13 October, 1993

A1128



Ulster Unionist Party PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 11 October 1993

RELEASE TIME: Immediate

Issued by Martin Smyth, Director of Information, on behalf of the Ulster Unionist Council.

The Ulster Unionist Party call on all who love Northern Ireland and seek its well being within the United Kingdom to join in non violent methods to promote a settlement and not allow themselves to react to recent events particularly the Hume/Adams demarche as some hoped they would.

The mortar attack on the RIR barracks in Killoeal and the attack on Dunmurry Orange Hall are further attempts by the IRA to destabilise the community and provoke loyalist reaction.

The firmness of the Ulster people throughout these 25 years has finally gained acknowledgement generally. However the terrorism of paramilitaries in the name of Protestantism is not only contrary to the essence of the Protestant faith but is counter productive politically.

Comparisons with Palestine/Israel or South Africa are obviously inaccurate. In comparison with them an overwhelming majority in Northern Ireland by the ballot box have declared their political will clearly.

However if the IRA/Sinn Fein followed their associates in the PLO and ANC and ceased to use terrorism it would be a realistic step which could lead to true peace and not an increase of bitterness and counter terrorism. The Irish Republic could also follow the PLO and neighbouring states which have recognised Israel's right to exist and admit the people of Northern Ireland have a right of existence within the United Kingdom.

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