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*p/cc. A/Sec of Legation  
Secretariat  
Mr Henry  
Mr Donoghue*

28 OCTOBER 1994

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON  
FOR G CORR FROM M COLLINS

RE: LOYALIST MEETING WITH HOUSE STAFFERS

For information, I attach notes by one House staffer on the meeting yesterday with the Loyalist delegation. These notes, which I am sending because I think they are particularly interesting and helpful, were provided on a confidential/non attribution basis.

*(4 pages total)*

(2)

NOTES - HOUSE MEETINGGary M

October 13th. Brokered ceasefire through analysis and debate with paramilitaries. Still a delicate and fragile situation. Issues that need to be addressed to answer fears between and within the communities.

Wanted to come here to show a positive, imaginative view within unionist community. We want to be in forefront at bringing about a solution for everyone - show that we're not just negative.

D Ervine

With the violence, little opportunity to address social issues and do politics that is more than just division. We don't know each other's aspirations, hopes, desires. We know the woe because we share it. Need to find a way to reach to each other on common issues.

Other unionist politicians would perhaps fight and die to the last drop of other people's blood. We needed to give a different analysis.

The silence of the loyalist paramilitaries kept the JD alive.

Government by the people. Powersharing by legitimate mandate. Can exclude no one.

Government as of right and special relationships with Republic. Must be of mutual benefit, and made by people who are accountable, not by "quangos". Elected representatives from North and South can meet but the most controversial decisions have to be ratifiable.

Need institutions of trust - education for example. Teachers are even educated in different schools.

We demand that the unionist position be reassessed - it is only "I am British". It can't be "I'm orange" or "I hate Catholics".

Written constitution, Bill of Rights and absolutely no way of going back to violence.

British security forces have used people on both sides. We've suffered same indignities,

courts, beatings.

15 years in jail, thrown out of helicopter. Blinded, beaten by British soldiers.

We started in 1990 trying to persuade people.

We'll use all our ability to remove the weapons.

We were encouraged about removal of troops in Derry and are convinced that ceasefires are here to stay.

We came with the notion that everyone here was an IRA fundraiser. We were wrong about that.

Working class, Protestants & Catholics suffer the same difficulties in finding jobs, etc.

With violence taken away we want to get back to the issues that both communities need to address together. Look forward to a day when politics is not by religion.

80 - 85% unemployment in some areas of Belfast. Big problems of single parents who can't go back to work or education without childcare.

Protestant wards becoming more deprived. British Government does little to address disadvantage in Protestant areas.

Increase in racketeering and gang activity after ceasefire. Police will have to learn how to deal with these things.

See our job as creating stable environment for investment - not handouts - and across the board rather than just in one community or the other.

Major and Reynolds are both genuine in trying to solve the problems.

Redundant gunmen, redundant terrorists stomping around.

Phased release of political prisoners. Maybe resettlement facilities staffed by confidants of people from both sides. They won't use the current facilities. Need to make these people part of our community again.

(4)

See it as positive that Forum is happening, but it is a debate within nationalism. We need to do the same within unionism.

More important for us to do this within the North, including with Sinn Fein. Need to get it right and not make a mess of it. Have to work out something we can meet about and not let it dissolve into recriminations.

There will be no solution without broad, cross-community support. Might require 61% within parliament on critical issues.

Council of Ireland brought down Sunningdale.

No objection, what so ever to aspiration of a united Ireland by democratic means.

US has substantial role to play. Perception in our community has been that US is one-sided. We need to be even-handed in our relations with Britain, Ireland.

Some work on policing, etc. Some in community work. Inward investment is important.

Agriculture, fisheries, energy, transport, tourism - should have cross-border relations in these ways.

Not easy to know who has mandate absent elections which would be too divisive. DUP stronger in rural areas.

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27 OCTOBER 1994

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON  
FOR G CORR FROM M COLLINSRE: LOYALISTS' VISIT

*plcc. Assoc oburgian  
secretariat  
Mr Donahue  
Mr Scarell*

1. For the record, the Loyalist delegation had breakfast this morning with trade unionists here including Tom Donahue, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO and Paschal McGuinness of the Carpenters Union. Later they had meetings with Hill staffers on both the Senate and the House side.
2. Speaking to several Hill staffers after the event, the following briefly are the points of interest:
  - The Loyalist delegation was described by one source as "incredibly impressive" and refreshing. They came across as more modern, liberated and more reasonable than mainstream Unionists who have visited here in the recent past. In particular, contacts on the Hill were struck by the fact that the Loyalist delegation was almost "totally devoid of rhetoric".
  - In all their meetings, a common element was their absolute distaste for DUP leader Ian Paisley. They said that they recognised that there was going to have to be give and take in agreeing any new arrangements. They felt that they could work well with Molyneaux although they would obviously have substantial disagreement with him on social issues.
  - The Loyalists were hugely interested in US experiences particularly in the area of policing.
  - They again raised the issue of prisoners and also the need for retraining of these prisoners once released.
  - They spoke positively of the IFI. They blamed their own community's lack of organisation and their own short-sightedness for not availing of IFI money up to now. There was, however, now a need for more projects in Loyalist areas. They referred (not by name) to one particular IFI "consultant" whom they claimed was



blocking projects in their areas in Belfast. There was a need for better local liaison with the Loyalist community by the IFI.

- They were conscious of the fact that they do not have an electoral mandate and were thus concerned how they would be able to play a role in future talks where they felt that they could be constructive, particularly in neutralising Paisley.
  - They believe very strongly that Unionism had lost its way through its identification with Protestantism. Ervine said, rather colorfully, that "Unionism has been bastardised because it has become a theocracy. That is not what our politics is all about".
3. The meeting with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff was quite lengthy, lasting up to some two hours. Staffers also gave the visitors a tour of the Capitol.