



**An Chartlann Náisiúnta**  
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Meeting with Denis Haughey and SDLP Councillors.

1. In a meeting on 9 February with Denis Haughey and SDLP Councillors from Cookstown and Magherafelt Councils, the following points were raised by the Councillors:
  - relations between the SDLP and Cookstown RUC Supt. David Pickering are currently "uncooperative and strained";
  - a local RUC decision last summer to allow Orange parades to be routed past the Catholic Church in Cookstown during Saturday evening mass provoked considerable local resentment;
  - Councillors asked that this matter be raised through the Secretariat well in advance of this year's parades;
  - all the Councillors present felt the Boundary Commission proposals in respect of mid-Ulster and Fermanagh-South Tyrone need to be challenged. There was particular concern at the proposal to transfer Omagh from mid-Ulster to Fermanagh-South Tyrone;
  - Councillors stressed that there is a conviction throughout the SDLP that the Commissions proposals, especially as regards South Down and Newry and Armagh, amount to a deliberate political decision in favour of the UUP.
  
2. In a subsequent private conversation, Denis Haughey made the following points:
  - he regards Seamus Mallon's airing of disagreements with Hume over the Adams visa and publication of Hume/Adams as "astonishing pettiness";

- Haughey expressed puzzlement as to Mallon's motivation but believes it probably relates to irritation at perceived lack of consultation by Hume with the MPs in relation to the visa issue and wider developments;
- in Haughey's view, Hume was absolutely right to support the visa. Haughey believes Adams must at this stage be given every encouragement to persuade his followers that there is no realistic alternative to peace;
- Haughey believes that a rejection of the Declaration would be a serious blow to the Sinn Féin electoral position. There is, he said, a groundswell of support for peace that is now irreversible and Sinn Féin will oppose this at their peril;
- reliable local sources indicate that the IRA leadership in Tryone oppose the Declaration but that there is extensive support among Sinn Féin supporters for acceptance;
- Haughey believes that, with or without Sinn Féin, resumed talks must start at an early date. He believes that Hume was largely disinterested in the last talks round but that this position will change if and when talks resume;
- Hume, in Haughey's view, believes that the peace process (whatever its result) had to happen before serious talks could begin. If Sinn Féin reject the Declaration, Haughey believes Hume will recognise that resumed talks must be allowed to succeed.

G. Corr

11 February, 1994

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