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12 APRIL 1994

TO HQ FROM WASHINGTON
FOR G CORR FROM M COLLINS

cc PSI

PSS; Friday

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DUP VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. DUP leader, accompanied by Messrs Robinson and McCrea, called on the State Department today and had meetings with Ms Mary Anne Peters, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Mr John Tefft, Director for Northern Europe, and Mr David Schafer. There was no representative of the NSC at these meetings as had been originally envisaged.
2. According to contacts at the State Department, the meeting was not so much an exchange as a presentation by Paisley and his colleagues. Paisley himself did most of the talking but Robinson and McCrea also contributed. Paisley was very strongly critical of the Joint Declaration and pointed to the fact that Molyneaux had now come around to the DUP way of thinking on the issue. His references to Molyneaux were of the "poor old Jim" variety suggesting that his position on the Declaration had made him a laughing stock in the unionist community. The State Department formed the impression that Paisley was determined to continue to box Molyneaux in on the Declaration in the run-up to the European elections in order to give him the minimum room for manoeuvre thereafter. They also formed the impression from Paisley that he was determined to use the European elections as a referendum on the peace process and the Declaration.
3. Paisley's anger was focussed almost exclusively on Major and Mayhew. He discounted any possibility of renewed talks except in the context of an internal settlement in Northern Ireland.

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He suggested that a gulf had developed between Hume and other members of his party and implied bad faith on the SDLP's part in Strand 1 of the round-table talks. He maintained that at these talks, the DUP had demonstrated their capacity to make concessions but had got burned. The only way for them to regain their confidence was for the Irish Government to amend Articles 2 and 3. As he has done elsewhere, he maintained that he would abide by majority rule. He was prepared to acquiesce in nationalist rule if at any stage in the future Catholics should become a majority.

4. Paisley was incensed by an article in the Irish Times by Conor O'Clery (reputedly sourced to Nancy Soderberg of the NSC) that the US was prejudiced against the DUP because of its anti-Catholicism and that this had prevented a meeting between the DUP and Vice President Gore. He thus renewed demands to see the Vice President also insisting that the European elections would show that he was the largest vote-getter in Northern Ireland and had therefore a right to such a meeting.
5. McCrea was apparently the most animated of the trio recounting personal tragedies arising from the IRA campaign of violence.
6. Robinson was described as the most bitter sounding and strident in his criticism of US Government support for the Joint Declaration.
7. Paisley spoke in somewhat apocalyptic terms (mainly for effect according to the State Department) about the fact that unionist community was prepared for a much higher level of violence in the future.
8. Paisley attended a reception last night organised here by the Northern Ireland Bureau at the University Club. About 25 people were present.
9. Tomorrow, following his return from New York, Paisley expects to meet the Speaker and Congressman Frank McCloskey. He may also meet with Senator Jesse Helms of N Carolina and Senator Strom Thurmond from S Carolina (both Bible Belt Senators)

END