



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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ROINN AN TAOISIGH

Uimhir.....

May 16

(Handwritten initials)
(14)

CONFIDENTIAL

Taoiseach's Meeting with President Clinton, Indianapolis, Saturday, 14 May, 1994.

1. The first part of the meeting took place in the Pastor's Study at the Baptist Church and was of 15 minutes duration. The Taoiseach had greeted the President on his arrival at the Church for another function (cutting the sod of a memorial to Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King). Present, apart from the President and the Taoiseach, were Ambassador Gallagher and the undersigned, together with two U.S. officials, one of whom acted as a notetaker.
2. Following the conclusion of the President's radio broadcast, which took place almost immediately after the meeting with the Taoiseach, the Taoiseach and the President had a further conversation - on a one-to-one basis - the duration of which was about 15 minutes. This note covers only those items which were discussed at the meeting in the Pastor's Study.
3. At the outset, the President asked for an up-date on the Northern Ireland situation and especially for the Taoiseach's views on whether a breakthrough on clarification was likely. The Taoiseach explained the background to the questions which had been received from Sinn Fein. He mentioned that about 40% of the original list of questions received had been rejected i.e. that the list forwarded to the British side contained only those deemed appropriate for consideration in this context.
4. In addition, suggested draft responses (including suggestions as to the language to be used in the replies) had been given to the British on the answers which they might consider giving to the queries put. For their part, the British had agreed not to publish the questions before their answers were available (otherwise everyone would be tempted to supply the answers!). [In the event, Sinn Fein published a statement later that evening purporting to contain the questions on which they required clarification.]
5. The President was encouraged by what the Taoiseach had said and complimented the Taoiseach on "keeping the pressure on". On more than one occasion, the President said, in this context, "If there is anything I can do to help, please let me know". The Taoiseach said that the President's support for the Joint Declaration and the peace process had been critical. He hoped that when the clarification issue was out of the way, there would be no possible excuse for violence. This would let Sinn Fein "honourably off the hook".

Taoiseach

To see

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ROINN AN TAOISIGH

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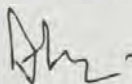
6. The Taoiseach reiterated how grateful he was to the President for his support. He mentioned, in particular, the visit to Washington by Mr. Jim Molyneaux, and others from the Official Unionist Party, which had been most helpful. Molyneaux had come back a changed man. At the same time, he was conscious that Ireland, North and South, was now in an election situation (the Euro elections) and this would have its own implications for the rate of progress.
7. The President spoke of the death of John Smith and its impact on British politics. The Taoiseach agreed that he would be greatly missed: he had risen above domestic politics and had given great support on Northern Ireland.
8. Turning to the general political situation, the Taoiseach commented that, following the recent local elections, the Conservatives had slipped to number three in many areas. The regrettable death of John Smith would probably strengthen Prime Minister Major's position. Britain, like Ireland, was also facing into the European elections. The President asked when the Labour Party would be likely to produce another Leader and who that might be. In response, the Taoiseach said that, at the moment, there appeared to be no clear successor and it might well be Autumn before a new Leader was in place.
9. The Taoiseach referred to the President's visit to London and offered guidance on what the President might say publicly on Northern Ireland, in the course of that visit, with a view to moving the peace process along. The Taoiseach suggested that the President might indicate that he had been supportive of the two Prime Ministers in their efforts to advance the peace process, both before and at the time of the Joint Declaration and subsequently. He might say that he continues to believe that the Declaration offers a historic opportunity to achieve a peaceful solution to the long-standing problem of Northern Ireland. The President asked to be kept informed of further developments and the Taoiseach undertook to do this.
10. The President also referred briefly to the political situation in the Middle East - the creation of a new Palestinian entity, and to recent political developments in South Africa. He said that he always believed that the Palestinian people really wanted peace. He was very hopeful that the new arrangements in that region would be successful. Likewise, he was hopeful that President Mandela's election would herald a new era in South Africa.

ROINN AN TAOISIGH

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11. As a general comment, the meeting between the President and the Taoiseach was most relaxed, friendly and informal. The President was most interested in receiving an up-date on the Joint Declaration process and repeatedly stressed his desire to be of assistance in achieving a peaceful solution to the Northern Ireland problem.
12. As already indicated, the Taoiseach had an opportunity for a private word with the President after the broadcast. Because of the broadcast, phase 1 of the Indianapolis meeting had to be brought to a conclusion at about 9.00 a.m., to enable the President to get ready for his broadcast from an adjoining room at 9.06 a.m.
13. The Taoiseach, accompanied by his son, Albert Jnr., Ambassador Gallagher and the undersigned, were invited to join the small audience for the broadcast, at which Senator Kennedy, Congressman McCloskey of the Friends of Ireland Group and Senator Lugar were also present. The Taoiseach was included in the platform party for the formal speeches on the occasion of the sod-turning ceremony for the Kennedy/Luther King Memorial and also in the small group who participated in the actual sod-turning event.
14. The Taoiseach and accompanying officials left the memorial site after the President's departure, for another function elsewhere, at 10.30 a.m.



Frank Murray,
16 May, 1994.