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Confidential

Do see file especially the meeting at P.S. 15th a loyalist ceasefire is likely to

Meeting with Rev. Roy Magee, Belfast, 30 September 1994

I met Dr. Magee in Belfast on Friday afternoon last. The following points of interest arose:

take some time to bring to a conclusion

Meeting with Tánaiste

- He was pleased at his recent meeting with the Tánaiste. He understands clearly, and has emphasised this to his Loyalist interlocutors, that it is necessary for the Government to address a number of different constituencies. He had no complaints about the way in which the Government are doing this. He expressed interest in the Tánaiste's UN speech. I have sent him a copy;

4/10

Loyalist paramilitaries

- I probed him on current attitudes within the UDA and UVF. (Another contact had referred to some differences between the political wing (i.e. Davy Ervine and the Progressive Unionist Party) and the military wing of the UVF). He made no reference to problems within the UVF but referred to significant differences within the UDA between remand and sentenced prisoners. The cause of this, he said, is essentially the violently negative attitude of Johnny Adair, the UDA's West Belfast commander, currently on remand, who has developed a cult following among the younger hard men in the Shankhill and who has propagated the view that only those who have been actively involved in violence should have the right to decide the UDA's strategy;
- Dr. Magee attaches particular importance at present to convincing the Loyalist prisoners of the benefits of a ceasefire and has been trying to arrange meetings in the Maze for this week. Essentially, his idea is to have UDA and UVF prisoners meet with their respective UDA and UVF

colleagues on the outside. Because of the sensitivities involved, he has proposed that the UDA meet in a 6/6/6 formation i.e. 6 sentenced prisoners, 6 remand prisoners, 6 from outside the Maze. The UVF will meet in 3/3/3 formation along the same lines. The greater numbers for the UDA meeting is so as to ensure adequate counterweights to Adair and to ensure that there can be no quibbling about the "democratic" nature of the UDA meeting. (Note: The UDA has had a more ostensibly "democratic" veneer than the UVF. Adair, for example, was elected UDA commander in West Belfast following the arrest of Jim Spence about two years ago - hence Roy Magee's concern about the structure of the UDA meeting);

- He is also working for a meeting between representatives of the Loyalist paramilitaries and the NIO. This, in his view, would send a useful signal to the UDA and UVF activists;

- He mentioned that a recent complicating factor has been the arrest of Alex Kerr, a South Belfast UDA figure, through whom Roy Magee has been working, on a charge of possessing documents (found at his house) likely to be of use to terrorists and a replica handgun, at disturbances which followed the recent Loyalist riots outside Crumlin Road courthouse. (Confidential note: Alex Kerr's name is familiar. He has featured in the past, as a UDA Commander in the South Belfast area. He is understood to be based in Taughmonagh (a Loyalist estate in South Belfast), which is where he was arrested. Dr. Magee hopes that Kerr's bail will not be refused. His own view is that Kerr was probably trying to calm the disturbances in question, although he had no explanation as to why Kerr was in possession of documents, or what they were;


- The Combined Loyalist Military Command plan to have their first meeting for some time during this week. His

understanding is that both Loyalist paramilitary groups remain committed to the six-point statement of early September;

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- While optimistic about the end result, his appreciation is that a Loyalist ceasefire is likely to take some time to bring to a conclusion;
- NB

Davy Ervine's possible visit to Washington

- I noted that the media had given prominence that afternoon to a statement by Ervine that he intends to take up an invitation to visit Washington, at the behest of Bill Flynn's Foreign Policy Committee (who extended the invitation to Gerry Adams earlier this year);
- Roy Magee indicated that he had been involved in the background to these invitations to the UVF side (through Ervine's Progressive Unionist Party) and to the UDA side (through Gary McMichael's Ulster Democratic Party). The idea would be for three representatives from each of the two groupings to travel. That said, Magee commented that neither party has yet officially responded and that Ervine appeared to have jumped the gun in his statement to the Belfast Telegraph.


Declan Kelleher
3 October 1994

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