



**An Chartlann Náisiúnta**  
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became more widespread;

#### Forum

- Mallon commented that there had as yet been no detailed discussion within the party on its approach to the Forum, but there were obvious dangers ahead;
  
- as he saw it Adams' objective would be to "narrow the gap" between the Hume/Adams document and the Joint Declaration. He noted as relevant the reference to the inadequacies of the Declaration in the IRA statement of 31 August, and Adams' comment declining comparison with Michael Collins (when going into Government Buildings), on the grounds that Collins had failed to resolve partition. Adams would be seeking to remedy these deficiencies;
  
- while he noted the emphasis on the Forum as a consultative, rather than negotiating, body, the Sinn Fein instinct would be to work towards a comprehensive concluding document. This trend would be difficult to resist.
  
- in terms of his own participation in the Forum he was conscious of the danger of being painted as a spoiler by Sinn Fein; he was particularly emphatic that he would not allow himself to be presented as aligned with opposition figures such as John Bruton and Michael McDowell.

#### Policing

- he said that the party had no choice but to respond as it did to the controversy over Francie Rocks' appointment to the Police Authority. The credibility of its policy on policing was at issue. However he had resisted efforts to dump the problem on him, and insisted it was a matter for the Party Executive to resolve. He acknowledged ruefully that party councillors were not immune to NIO

blandishments, helped in at least two cases by the granting of OBES.

- reflecting on Sinn Fein efforts, as he saw it, to hi-jack the policing issue he commented sourly on the failure to take action on this issue in the past few years. He is concerned that political benefits from any gains which may now be made will accrue only to Sinn Fein.
- there had as yet been no sign of the "flying columns" promised by local Sinn Fin Councillor McAllister to monitor security force behaviour. He noted that since the cessation barriers had been removed in Newry, Armagh and Markethill. The Army in Crossmaglen seemed to be trying particularly hard to be "friendly" but local reaction remained muted.
- he noted that the Inter-Parliamentary Body would shortly begin work on a report on policing, but given the composition on the British side (King, Orme etc.) he was not optimistic about the outcome.
- the situation in Newtownhamilton where the Army are re-building the base remained quiet, with very few complaints. It seemed that offers of compensation, and some lessons learned by the security forces from Crossmaglen, had done the trick. \*

#### Economic Issues

- he had been told by a contact on the board of Northern-Ireland Railways that Newry had been dropped from a station re-development plan, which also included Belfast (Central Station?) and Portadown. He was uncertain of the attitude of the holding company, but there were also difficulties with DoE and the Stormont Department of Finance. He has asked for an urgent meeting with Minister Tim Smyth. The issue has also been raised

through the Secretariat.

- he had asked John McGuckian of IDB for a meeting with Newry Enterprise to discuss inward investment. He was annoyed at a response from IDB, apparently in McGuckian's absence, that he deal with LEDU. He was hopeful the issue could be resolved on McGuckian's return, but if not he would have to raise it on the adjournment in the Commons.

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P. Hennessy

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