



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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Reference Code:	2021/96/4
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M cc. A/Sec of Hume
Mr. Dwyer

10th Oct.

(22) + (27) ✓

Confidential

Note

1. Contacts made the following points this morning concerning a special SDLP meeting in Belfast on Saturday of party Councillors, Constituency Representatives and the Executive:

- Hume in his opening address emphasised that no discussions have taken place with Sinn Fein on any future electoral pact and that in his meetings with Adams he has at every stage put forward only SDLP policy.
- Hume said that if he sometimes does not keep the party informed of developments, it is because he may not be fully in the picture himself. He added that for the first time ever, he does not know what the Irish Government are currently proposing in relation to the Framework Document.
- Hume expressed concern that Sinn Fein are making serious efforts to "move in on the American agenda" and added that the SDLP will need to be especially careful to protect its interests in relation to a US economic package.
- Mallon in his speech placed considerably more emphasis on the need for the SDLP to maintain a clear distance from Sinn Fein. For example, Hume had said that "it is not conceivable at this time that we could consider an electoral arrangement with Sinn Fein". Mallon in his comments said the SDLP must never under any circumstances have an electoral pact with any other party.

2. Mallon criticised Hume for having "dominated" the Party's contacts with US political and business leaders. Hume did not reply directly but commented afterwards to several Councillors that he had allowed Mallon and McGrady to concentrate on Philadelphia and Chicago respectively but that neither had made any serious efforts to build contacts in these areas.

3. In a desultory discussion on future SDLP-Sinn Féin relations in local Councils, three variants were proposed:
 - Denis Haughey argued for a new partnership arrangements to include Sinn Féin.

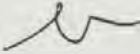
 - Hugh Carr said the SDLP should focus on partnership between representatives of the two traditions and not focus on individual parties.

 - Hume said the SDLP should focus on general partnership wherever practicable but this should not involve at this stage any formal partnership involving other parties.

4. On the Forum, Hume said it will represent an "important opportunity to get agreement" but the dynamics of eight parties, some with strong antipathies, will make such agreement difficult. He agreed to early internal discussions on SDLP policy to be adopted in the Forum.

5. Alex Attwood, SDLP leader on Belfast City Council, urged early "creative thinking" in relation to policing issues as one area where the SDLP could out-flank Sinn Féin on the ground. Mallon in response emphasised traditional SDLP policy but said that "perhaps in Belfast we could look at possible interim models".

6. In private discussions with some Belfast Councillors after the meeting, Hume was critical of Joe Hendron's current trip to the US to attract investment to West Belfast. Hume urged that the Party in Derry and Belfast work together in the context of future US/EU economic assistance.



G. Corr

10 October, 1994

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