



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

Reference Code: 2021/97/18

Creator(s): Department of the Taoiseach

Accession Conditions: Open

Copyright: National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

27

Secure Fax: 761

4 July 1995
one: 1

No of pages including this

To: HQ

From: Belfast

For: Second Secretary O hUiginn

From: Joint Secretary

Clegg s release (2)

Two other comments of particular interest were made at last evening s reception by the Cardinal and by Fr. Gerry Reynolds of Clonard. The Cardinal was aghast at the timing and one-handedness of the British Government s decision and was fearful that the street violence which went on last night would continue on during the coming weeks which mark the height of the marching season. You will have seen his forthright public comments today. As you know, he has been pressing the British authorities on behalf of the chaplains for some changes in regime and obtained some concessions recently in regard to compassionate leave. I think he will be pressing the British Government for further action following Clegg s release.

Fr. Reynold s comment was that the decision had driven them wild in West Belfast. He remarked wearily that faced with two possible options, the British could always be relied on to choose the wrong one. He thought the Clegg release would have very serious repercussions but did not go so far as to say the peace process was in any imminent danger.

COPY TO:
PST
PSS
MR. F MURRAY
MR. P TEARON
MR. S. DONLON
MR. T DALTON

cc PST
PSS (27)
Mr Deakin
Mr Dalton
file

Note

1. Mr. Aidan MacAteer called to see me on July 4th.
2. He seemed anxious to establish when the paper on decommissioning which had been discussed at the Sinn Féin meeting with the Government would be handed over.
3. I said that discussions were ongoing between the two Governments since Cannes, but that it would take a little more time to have the outlines of a paper which the Government would be happy with and which we could also hope would get the British Government "off the hook" of their demand for a handover up front. Obviously the whole British dimension remained problematic as long as the Tories were in crisis.
4. I probed him on the broad different options (e.g. International Commission etc.) but he refused to be drawn saying the matter was "too sensitive" for him to have an opinion. This was also inhibiting any discussion within their own ranks. He repeated their belief that a handover was impossible for them in the present context.
5. He accepted fully however the need for some shift and confirmed the impression that they saw this essentially within the first two "Washington" conditions.
6. We discussed briefly the rioting, the scale of which he said had surprised him. They would now seek to channel this anger into orderly street protests. I warned about the danger of all such measures getting out of hand.

Seán O hUiginn
4 July 1995

Mr. Gillin
S.H. 6.7.95.

W. Hare
JH 5/2/95

Secure Fax: 756

4 July 1995

No of pages inc this one: 1

To: HQ

From: Belfast

For: Second Secretary O hUiginn

From: Michael Mellett

As you know there was a function here last night. Two points which may be of interest came up in conversation.

I asked Michael Legge, Deputy Secretary NIO, about the timing of the announcement of the decision in the Clegg case. He said Mayhew felt obliged to deal with the case himself and thought it would be unfair to leave it to his successor. It was a real possibility that Mayhew may not be SoS NI in a reshuffled Major Administration, assuming Major survives the vote this evening. The reshuffle is likely to take place tomorrow.

Dr. Murray Power (NIO) told me legislation is being prepared to increase remission on prison determinate sentences for scheduled offences. It would probably be introduced in the Commons in the fall, assuming the peace process survives.

COPY TO
PST
PSS
✓ MR. F MURRAY
MR. P TEAHON
MR. S. DONLON
MR. T DALTON