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THURSDAY, 24 JUN 1999

VERY URGENT

Secure Fax

To: Mr. Brendan Ward, Private Secretary to the Taoiseach

From: Dermot Gallagher

Date: **24 June 1999**

Pages: 1 + 4

Drumcree -- Discussions with Peter Quinn

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Drumcree - Discussions with Peter Quinn, 24 and 25 June, 1999

1. I arranged to meet with Peter Quinn (whom I have known for many years) in Belfast yesterday to discuss the possibility of achieving a breakthrough in Drumcree. We followed this up with a further discussion this morning.

Current state of play, Wednesday, 24 June

2. David Campbell, David Trimble's Chief of Staff, had given Peter Quinn a compromise plan yesterday (copy attached as faxed by Jonathan Powell to Paddy Teahon). In Quinn's words, the key elements were (a) the Orange protests being called off; (b) Tony Blair chairing a meeting of both sides; (c) the Portadown Community Forum being established, with £15m funding; and (d) a march back down the Garvaghy Road from service at Drumcree Church on the 4th July on the following basis - it would be silent, with no drums being sounded, and there would be no visitors (i.e. just the local Orangemen).

3. Quinn said he was going to see Breandán MacCionnaith later in the day to see if he could sell him the proposal. He was very doubtful, however, about his chances of success. MacCionnaith's room for manoeuvre was limited by the unfortunate mistake of Frank Blair in putting his compromise proposal (one final march down the Garvaghy) on the table far too early; it was an elementary mistake in negotiations. As a result, MacCionnaith, despite his own instincts that more was needed on his side, was boxed in to a considerable degree. This was also reflected in the residents vetoing MacCionnaith travelling to London that day to meet the Prime Minister; they felt he would be subject to Prime Ministerial pressure (charm !), and might be tempted to do a solo-run.

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State of play, Thursday, 25 June

4. Peter Quinn told me this morning that he had been unable to sell the Campbell/Orange proposal to the residents. They had two requirements they wanted met and, even then, it would be an extremely difficult sell: (a) that the Orange should talk to them - however, they would accept that this could be through a Chairman, probably, the Prime Minister; and (b) that the nightly harassment should be permanently ended, and not just for a ten day period, i.e. to allow a march to take place. If some movement could be made on these two issues - and, given that the first seems easy to resolve, we are talking about the harassment guarantee - Quinn said he would be prepared to go back to the Residents tomorrow.

Jonathan Powell

5. Following a review with Paddy Teahon, I spoke to Jonathan Powell about the needs of the situation. He said he had spoken to Trimble about the harassment issue. The problem was that the Orange said they didn't control the protests. I made the point that they were far less likely to take place if the Orange asked people to desist. Language, therefore, could be very helpful. He will explore urgently what might be possible, and will also try to factor in helpful language from the British Government. He emphasised again that a breakthrough on Drumcree would be enormously helpful to Trimble in the wider context.

Hume/Adams/Sean Brady

6. Peter Quinn emphasised also that, if the deal is to be sold, we will have to bring in the leverage of Archbishop Brady, John Hume and Gerry Adams to

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help MacCionnaith and himself. The Archbishop's influence could be crucial as two key members of the Residents are both very difficult and very Catholic. They would be unlikely, at the end of the day, to stand out against the Archbishop. (The Archbishop, who is in Rome this week, will be attending Cardinal Hume's funeral; I will try and speak to him in London tonight.)

Assessment of Orange

7. Quinn feels the Orange side have moved a lot in recent months, and that David Trimble has been "doing his best". They have, of course, very difficult people in their ranks, and he suspects that Monteith (a local solicitor) was recently forced on the Committee by the LVF. Overall, however, they have moved significantly, and MacCionnaith is realistic enough to realise that the residents have now to move as well. Quinn would not fully rule out alternative marches for the future, though this should be left out of the equation for the moment.

Dermot Gallagher
24 June 1999

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Possible Agreement

1. **Portadown District agree to meet with Garvaghy Road Residents Coalition. (as per the sequence above)**

2. **Portadown District call off all their protests.**

3. **A Portadown Community Forum is established [from Monday, 28 June, 1999 under the Chairmanship of ?) and will have its inaugural meeting on [Monday, 5 July, 1999].**

4. **The annual Drumcree Somme Anniversary Service is permitted to walk back to Portadown via the Garvaghy Road on 4 July, 1999.**

5. **Portadown District agree to attend the Portadown Community Forum and be represented at senior level.**

6. **A socio-economic initiative for Portadown is announced.**

7. **In addition to working together in the Community Forum, both Parties commit themselves to working constructively together in a structured format from September, 1999 to December, 1999 to improve community relations in Portadown, to understand each others' positions, and to reach accommodation on the future of parades on the Garvaghy Road. [The Prime Minister to ask the First and Deputy First Ministers to facilitate the format.]**

8. **Signed by the Prime Minister and both Parties.**

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