

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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Meeting with Fr. Reid

He came in decidedly gloomy mood. The comments by Brendan Hughes (former O/C in the Maze till he went on the first hunger strike and close associate of Bobby Sands and Gerry Adams) had sent shock-waves through the movement, and was a blow to Adams.

The view in the Movement, and also as a means of pacifying it, was that the Agreement was finished. They should build up their electoral strength and negotiate a better Agreement in two or three years' time. I said there would be no better Agreement negotiated, and that we must concentrate on making this one work. Fr. Reid's perspective is the absolute importance of not letting things slide back to war. He saw Sinn Féin in particular as having even less room for manoeuvre at this stage than the IRA. There was deep resentment of Mandelson wielding the Unionist veto.

Hauke Hansen

In confidence
I believe

6 March 2000

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