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SECRET

Conversation with Seamus Mallon

I spoke with Mallon this morning about the Police Bill. He was in very sombre mood. He criticised Mandelson's failure to deliver a Bill which nationalists could support. Mandelson, as Secretary of State, has not an iota of credibility with the nationalist community.

Mallon believes that he himself retains his credibility and intends to put it "on the line to the community". He is proposing to put into the public domain the letter he wrote to Mandelson last week (copy attached).

Events last night have damaged his relationship with Trimble. That relationship was bedevilled in the past through deals done by Trimble with Downing Street. Mallon believes that the decision not to proceed with the amendments defining "operational purposes" was influenced by Downing Street.

Mallon said he would need extensive "big big" changes before he could support the Bill. Any further amendments can only be made in the Lords before the Bill is brought back to the Commons.

Re,

Dáithí O'Ceallaigh

12 July, 2000

Mrs Quigley
For file
A 13/7/00

Taoiseach
To see please.
12/7/00
cc DS Hammond
Mr Kinahan
Mr Whelan

(This is very serious.) 12.7.00

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Social Democratic & Labour Party
Pairti Sóisialta Daonlathach an Lucht Oibre

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PERSONAL

The Rt Hon Peter Mandelson MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland Office
Castle Buildings
Belfast BT4 3SG

6th July 2000

July 2000

Dear Peter,

I would like to thank you for your letter regarding the name of the future police service.

While I accept that the formulation that you have offered progresses the debate to some extent, I regret to inform you that it does not meet SDLP concerns.

The SDLP believes that the name of the police service should be the Police Service of Northern Ireland for "*all*" purposes. We believe, therefore, that it is unsatisfactory to have a name change for "*operational*" purposes only, regardless of how that term is defined. Put simply, if the name is to change for all purposes, then this should be stated in the new clause.

On the issue of the phrase "styled as", I disagree with your view that this is a more satisfactory term than "known as." I would point out in this regard that the phrase "known as" was used in the original version of the

John Hume MP MEP Party Leader Seamus Mallon MP Deputy Leader Eddie McGrady MP Chief Whip
Member Party of the Party of European Socialists and Socialist International

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PERSONAL

Bill – drafted by your officials and legislative counsel – and shown to us at Hillsborough. Moreover, in sub-clause (1) of your proposed new clause, reference is made to the "body of constables known as the Royal Ulster Constabulary." For clarity and consistency, it is essential that the same phrase be used in sub-clause (2). To do otherwise would, in fact, suggest that there is a second name lurking somewhere around.

To avoid any such suggestion I believe that it is also necessary to make certain changes to the wording and punctuation of sub-clause (1). These are apparent in the attached wording for a new clause which would be acceptable to the SDLP.

Sincerely,

Seamus

SEAMUS MALLON MP

PERSONAL

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