

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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Secret

Call from Gerry Kelly

On the Meeting with General de Chastelain

Gerry Kelly called me at home. He said that Gerry Adams had asked him to brief me on the meeting with the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning.

Kelly said that the meeting lasted over one hour and was conducted in a "very convivial atmosphere". The three members of the Commission were present.

Kelly said that they put to de Chastelain the pertinent question i.e. what did he need to enable the Commission to come up with a positive report. He replied that he needed product or a commitment to provide product.

Neither were forthcoming and General de Chastelain said that his report would state that there were difficulties within the IRA which did not allow him to report that there was a commitment to decommission. He would also report that he did not discuss modalities.

Kelly agreed that this represented a rather stark situation but added that it was hardly surprising.

I briefed him on the Disqualification Bill, its second stage was taken in the Commons. I also reported that we had raised the question of office facilities for the Sinn Fein MPs in Westminster with the British. I said that the British had replied

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that there had been resistence from Unionist and Conservative parties to the proposals but that it was likely that the British Government would push on with it next week.

Kelly was thankful for the briefing on the two above issues. They had received negative signals about both proposals from other quarters.

Ray Bassett
24 January 2000

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