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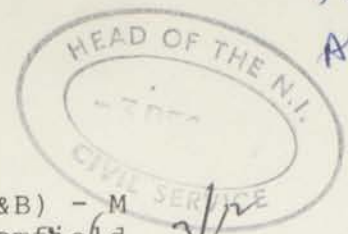
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PAB/1232/BN

Mr Blackwell

cc: PS/PUS (L&B) - M
PS/Mr Bloomfield
Mr Brennan - M
Mr Merifield
Mr Innes
Mr Bell - M
Mr Gilliland
Mr S Hewitt
Mr Spence



INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE: DRAFT STATEMENT

I attach a first draft of a statement which we and the Irish might issue after the meeting to be held on 11 December. I should like to submit a revised version together with the other papers and briefs for the first meeting in a package for the Secretary of State's weekend box this Friday 6 December. I should therefore be grateful for any comments, if possible by the evening of Wednesday 4 December.

2. I take it that our aim is to steer between the twin hazards of excessive secrecy and excessive detail which might embarrass both ourselves and the Irish. We need to be able to negotiate the draft with the Irish, probably on Monday 9 December. I am fairly sure that they will want to avoid including too much detail, particularly of issues which remain contentious; they will however see advantage, as we do, in including factual points which demonstrate that each side has put across its own arguments. The present draft is very short, and could probably be expanded; I should be grateful in particular for contributions in this sense, perhaps especially on the two security items and in respect of other areas which we might wish to allude to as candidates for future discussion (paragraph 7).

3. The present intention is that each side should hold a separate press conference after the meeting, the Irish probably after they have returned to Dublin. It may be that the Irish will object strenuously to our doing this. If however a press conference is held, we should be able to expand a little on the statement without having to clear what we say in detail with the Irish.

M Elliott

M ELLIOTT

Political Affairs Division

3 December 1985

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ANGLO-IRISH INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE

FIRST MEETING: 11 DECEMBER 1985

JOINT STATEMENT

1. The first meeting at Ministerial level of the Intergovernmental Conference established by the Anglo-Irish Agreement of November 1985 was held at Stormont House on 11 December 1985. The joint Chairmen, Mr King and Mr Barry, were accompanied on the British side by Dr Rhodes Boyson and Mr Nicholas Scott, and on the Irish side by Mr Michael Noonan and Mr Liam Kavanagh, as well as by officials.

2. After hearing opening statements and discussing a range of procedural matters, the Conference gave preliminary consideration to four specific issues:
 - a) relations between the security forces and the minority community in Northern Ireland;
 - b) security co-operation between the two Governments;
 - c) the administration of justice;
 - d) economic development in both parts of Ireland.

3. As a preface to discussion of the first item, the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Sir John Hermon, gave a presentation on the security situation in Northern Ireland, with particular reference to the role of the RUC in association with Armed Forces operations involving direct contact with the community.

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4. During discussion of security co-operation, Irish representatives described their plans to deploy Task Force units and other police reinforcements on their side of the border.

5. The Conference agreed to establish a working group chaired by senior British and Irish officials to consider the machinery for the further discussion of legal matters, including the administration of justice.

6. The Conference reviewed the prospects of securing international support for economic development in both parts of Ireland.

7. The Conference agreed that at future meetings discussion of these issues would be continued, and identified a number of other areas for future discussion.

8. A further meeting will be held in the New Year.

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