

E. R. *RS 86/S*

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PAB/1810/BN

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

cc: PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - m
PS/Mr Scott (L&B) - m
PS/Dr Mawhinney (L&B) - m
PS/PUS (L&B) - m
PS/Mr Bloomfield
Mr Stephens
Mr Brennan - m
Mr Chesterton - m
Mr Innes
Mr Elliott
Mr Spence
Mr Gilliland
Mr Bell - m
Mr G Hewitt
Mr Blackwell
Mr S Hewitt
Mr Mackay - m

DISCUSSION WITH JIM ALLISTER - DUP ASSEMBLYMAN

I met Mr Allister on Friday (16.5.86) when, to his embarrassment, he inadvertently sat down beside me on the tube to Heathrow.

2. During our conversation he took a predictably hard line in relation to the Anglo Irish Agreement and also the question of 'talks about talks'.

3. He is very pleased indeed that the possibility some preliminary talks might take place seems now, in his words, to have bitten the dust. I queried this point with him saying his leader had indicated that such talks could take place even if an Intergovernmental Conference was held. While not denying that this had been the position he said that it was obviously Peter Barry calling the tune and there would be no possibility whatsoever of persuading him and his party together with the majority of the UUP such talks would lead to a position where a framework could be established for further talks during which the Conference would not meet. He told me this had always been his position and that there now seemed to be no alternative to confrontation in order to have the Anglo Irish Agreement removed.

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4. He expressed surprise at the strength of the integration lobby within the UUP mainly because he believes that integration will merely strengthen the Anglo Irish Agreement and lead to a more direct form of joint authority than is currently in existence (his words). Members of the UUP have told him that integration is on offer but neither he nor his party are interested not merely because they do not believe it is not on offer but also because, as he stated earlier, they feel it would considerably weaken the position of unionists viz-a-viz Anglo Irish Agreement.

5. The DUP are particularly critical of the Irish Government over the question of extradition and the MacBride Principles because they feel that they did not use their influence in the USA to help to have these matters resolved in a satisfactory manner. This had not helped the Secretary of State on his recent trip to the USA but, as usual, Mr Allister was less than charitable about the Secretary of State's efforts and motives.

6. We discussed the Assembly and I told him the recent antics of Assembly members had hardly endeared them to the public let alone the Government. Predictably he disagreed with me about the public perception and of course he does not really care what HMG thinks on this matter. He went on to tell me that he expects the Assembly will be closed down in the very near future and when that happens street politics will be the order of the day. I told him that in many people's belief the Assembly was already indulging in street politics by their intemperate statements and irresponsible activities. He did not accept that the provocation from the Assembly towards HMG was anything like the provocation employed by HMG on 15 November when they signed the Anglo Irish Agreement saying that all violence and street activity had flowed from that date.

Comment

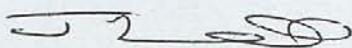
7. There is little doubt that Assemblymen such as Mr Allister who have other sources of income, will be unmoved by any decision taken by HMG to close the Assembly and will in fact welcome the opportunity to once again claim that HMG is denying the democratic right of the loyalist people to express their view as publically elected representatives.

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that
he sees his future in Westminster expecting as he does to win the
East Antrim Parliamentary seat for the DUP in the next election.



J E McCONNELL

Political Affairs Division

19 May 1986

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