

E. R.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

NH 112/5

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~~Mr Humphrey~~

Please prepare a draft
in consultation with Dept
M 19/5

Mr Spence - SEE PAGE 2 - ADVISE BY NOON FRIDAY

SECRETARY OF STATE'S MEETING WITH BISHOP CAHAL DALY ON 18 MAY

The Secretary of State met Bishop Daly on 18 May. I have recorded below a number of points which, in response to the Secretary of State, the Bishop suggested as ways of strengthening constitutional elements within West Belfast and weaning the community at large away from the influence of Sinn Fein/PIRA. There were as follows:

- a co-ordinated and concentrated job-promotion drive in West Belfast, paralleled with another in a loyalist area. The Bishop suggested that all the public job-creation agencies should be brought together in a co-ordinated way, much as in an Enterprise Zone, to boost the development of employment in West Belfast which, he claimed, was suffering from an absence of job-creation strategy. Such an initiative would, he believed, be widely supported by the local community and could be meshed together with voluntary initiatives;
- environmental rehabilitation through clearance of sub-standard housing, tidying-up of derelict sites etc. This the Bishop saw as a means of not only raising morale

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but also improving social attitudes and responsibility levels;

- greater clarity on the timing for demolition of Divis Flats and developments to provide alternative accommodation for those displaced;
- the establishment of a further education college in West Belfast where further education efforts were scattered over the area and where there was an acute risk of rapid de-skilling (the use of this word suggests that we should include GTCs in this point); and
- further support for the Irish language movement. Although this was heavily influenced by Sinn Fein in West Belfast, there were many bona fide elements who had identified the Irish language and culture as a means of expressing their Irishness without becoming involved in Republicanism. It would be helpful if DENI would increase the number of Irish language teachers.

2. I should be grateful if you could co-ordinate advice on these points for the Secretary of State by noon on Friday, 29 May, please.

85.

D J WATKINS
Private Secretary

18. May 1987

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