

CONFIDENTIAL

From: PS/Secretary of State
4 June 1991

cc PS/SofS (B&L) - B
PS/MofS (B&L) - B
PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Mr Fell - B
Mr Pilling - B
Mr Thomas (B&L) - B
Mr Alston - B
Mr McNeill - B
Mr Cooke - B
Mr Pope - B

Mr D J R Hill (B&L) - B

1596
- 5.11.1991

UNDER 103/6
REC
- 5.11.1991
CENT REC

Mr Hume

TELEPHONE CALL FROM MR HUME

Mr Hume rang the Secretary of State just after 5.00 pm on Wednesday, 29 May.

2. The Secretary of State said that he had agreed that a name for the Chairman of Strand 2 of the talks with the Irish Government. Lord Carrington had been put to the Unionist leaders, whose reaction, which was a rational one, was that this would not be a good solution for the Unionist side of the community. Mr Hume expressed incredulity ("good God") at this.

3. The Secretary of State went on to say that if the Unionists accepted a proposal for a Chairman, this would be a sign of good intent. So far, he had been working on the basis of people acceptable to the Irish Government. As Mr Hume had previously said that if a name could be found which the Unionists could accept, that would be a satisfactory test of Unionist good faith, the Secretary of State wondered whether Mr Hume and himself might agree on some names, and put them to the Unionists. Mr Hume said that any Chairman would have to be acceptable to the two Governments. The Secretary of State accepted that, but pointed out that in continuing to proceed in this way it would be effectively impossible to test the reasonableness of the Unionists' position. Mr Hume said he would need to think about this.

4. The Secretary of State also explained that in order to be fair to the person concerned, the Unionists had agreed to maintain confidentiality about the name of the prospective chairman, and he hoped Mr Hume would do likewise. Mr Hume assented.

Signed

A J D PAWSON
Private Secretary

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