

*Alain PA Inter Party Talks*

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PEFO/3938

- 5 JUN 1991

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

7-69  
6 JUN 1991

FROM: J L TOWNSON  
Talks Administrator  
5 June 1991

*Mr Coakley*  
*Mr Lavery*  
*Mr Rosefield*

*Mr Thompson*

*To see + P/pt*

*AL*

- cc PS/SofS (B&L/PB) - B
- PS/PMG (B&L) - B
- PS/MofS (B&L/PB) - B
- PS/PUS (B&L/PB) - B
- PS/Mr Fell
- Mr Pilling
- Mr Ledlie - B
- Mr Thomas
- Mr Chesterton - B
- Mr Alston
- Mr Wood (B&L/PB) - B
- Mr Cooke - B
- Mr Dodds - B
- Mr Archer, RID FCO - B
- HMA Dublin - B
- Mr Brooker
- Supt Curral ) RUC
- Insp Hamilton) Security
- C/I Stoneman) Estate
- Sgt Gray ) Police

MR D J R HILL

TALKS: STRAND TWO SECURITY ISSUES

Further to our recent offer of accommodation on the first floor to the Irish Government delegation, I convened a meeting to consider the implications of Strand Two for our existing security arrangements. Superintendent Curral and Inspector Hamilton, RUC Security Branch attended with support from Chief Inspector Stoneman and Sergeant Gray of the Estate police. Mr Kirkwood also attended.

2. The meeting was conducted amicably and constructively by all concerned and the main points of agreement are noted below. In general the RUC were content with the location of the accommodation offered to the Irish and considered the decision to locate them on the First Floor was sound. They were also content with the accommodation identified for the Independent Chairman in Rooms 14 - 17.

3. Specific points of agreement were as follows:

Internal Security

- all windows in rooms occupied by the Irish delegation to be provided with venetian blinds and net curtains;
- door locks to be changed;
- the security post presently located in the First Floor stairwell in the West Corridor to be relocated on the Second Floor to prevent use of stairway (except in emergency evacuation);
- the passenger lifts to be re-programmed to bypass the First Floor;
- the RUC rest room (presently in Room 152) to be relocated in Room 46 on the Ground Floor; [this move will be effected by Wednesday am]
- the North staircase, leading from the Second Floor to the Central Hall to be furnished with a notice indicating it is to be used in an emergency only;
- consideration to be given to the precise location of the security post presently at the foot of the North staircase;
- the door between the East Corridor and the main entrance to the building via the East Annexe, to be kept locked whilst the Main Door is open. Control of key to be retained by existing security post at this location to facilitate access to Assembly Library;
- messengers standing orders for these posts to be redrafted and circulated to RUC for information.

External Security

- the mowed bank at the rear of the building, overlooking the Irish accommodation to be subjected to regular RUC dog patrols;
- the wooded area above the bank to be subjected to daily search by RUC dog patrol;
- mobile patrols on the Ballymiscaw Road above the Estate to be increased;
- DMSU to be available in the Estate for general security work and to cover possible protests when the Irish Delegation arrive in Parliament Buildings;
- further consideration to be given to external security measures when the Irish transport and accommodation arrangements are known.

4. Finally it was agreed that there was no security reason to prevent the allocation of Room 40 on the Ground Floor adjacent to the DUP suite to staff from the NI Audit Office, presently located in Room 150. If you agree that there are no policy reasons to exclude them from the Ground Floor, efforts will be made to restrict their use of the accommodation to non-Talks days. Although their needs are minimal and their attendances tend to be sporadic they have a genuine need to have a base within the building in order to discharge their statutory functions.

signed

J L TOWNSON  
Room 42  
Parliament Buildings