

26 OCT '93 10:48 DED CMC NETWORK FROM RECEIVED FROM 0232 524972

FROM: S G BREARLEY
PARLIAMENTARY CLERK
15 NOVEMBER 1993

MS LODGE
MISS HARRISON
MR S SMITH
✓ MR GREER

cc Mr Brooker
MR Cooke
Mr Adams
Mr Dunn

PRIME MINISTERS BULL POINTS

I attach a copy of the Northern Ireland bull points that were prepared for the Prime Minister's use last month and would be grateful if you could let me have any amendments by close of play on Wednesday 24 November.

SIGNED:

S G BREARLEY

PARLY/13212

NORTHERN IRELAND

Political Developments

HMG is determined to work for a comprehensive political settlement within Northern Ireland and within a broader framework of stable relationships.

HMG remains committed to Talks process which retains the potential to deliver a fair accommodation, acceptable to all, which would help heal the communal division in Northern Ireland and lead to political stability.

All the participants agreed when the Talks ended that further dialogue was both necessary and desirable. Private bilateral discussions are continuing with the constitutional parties to explore the basis on which further dialogue can take place.

HMG has no blueprint for new institutions. If believed helpful, HMG will table proposals as a basis for discussion once new talks begin.

HMG's objective is to reach a widely acceptable agreement which would involve giving local people more power and responsibility for their own affairs, within a framework of positive and constructive relationships.

The prospects for defeating terrorism would be enhanced by a political settlement.

The present status of Northern Ireland as part of the United Kingdom will not change without the consent of a majority of the people who live there. This is understood by all participants.

"Understandings" with the UUP

As I have already made clear to the House there was no deal; nothing was asked for, nothing was offered and nothing was given.

Select Committees

As the Government has repeatedly made clear, a Select Committee on Northern Ireland affairs may, in principle, be desirable. This is a matter for the House. I have noted that the Procedure Committee is re-examining the possible composition of such a Committee, and the Government will, of course, consider any report it may produce.

Anglo-Irish Agreement

Both Governments remain fully committed to the Agreement. Embodies principle that Province's status will not change without consent of majority. Inter-governmental conference has proved forum for discussion of common interests such as security co-operation, political and social issues. Value this co-operation.

Both Governments have made clear they would be prepared to consider a new more broadly based agreement if such an agreement can be arrived at through direct discussion and negotiation between all of the parties concerned.

EXTRADITION: ROI

Understand that the Irish Government will be introducing new extradition legislation early in next Dail session. Both Governments share common concern to ensure terrorists not able to avoid extradition by claiming that crimes they commit are political.

EXTRADITION OF MAZE ESCAPERS FROM USA

We strongly reject the presumption that nationalists in Northern Ireland are subject to systematic persecution by security forces.

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LAW AND ORDER

The Government's top priority is to defeat the evil of terrorism through the application of the rule of law.

In 1992 405 people were charged with serious terrorist offences. As at 10 October 1993 283 were charged with terrorist offences, including 101 with murder/attempted murder. Cross border security cooperation is good. However work is constantly being done for further improvements.

As at 30 August 1993, the RUC strength was 8453 full-time officers and 4599 reserve officers (full-time/part time). In 1991, the Secretary of State approved the Chief Constable's bid for an increased establishment. In an announcement made in the House of Commons on 14 November 1991, allowances were made for an additional 239 regular officers and 202 full-time reserves. Funding for the police in the most recent year (1992/93) is £568.053m.

As at 30 August 1993, regular army force level was 17350 and the Royal Irish Regiment (a merger of the UDR and RIR) was 5491.

As at 24 October 1993 51 civilians, 3 RUC officers and 6 soldiers had been killed as a result of terrorist violence in Northern Ireland.

US "PEACE ENVOY"

Greatly welcome President Clintons continued support for political Talks process. Resumption of that process, as quickly as possible, continues to be the priority. Mention of a peace envoy is a distraction from that process. However we would welcome and give every reasonable facility to anyone coming to find

out the facts for themselves, or better still, to see how they might contribute to economic regeneration.

US CONTRIBUTIONS TO TERRORIST FUNDS

HMG has built up a carefully targeted US information effort through our overseas posts and visits. Indications are that financial support to terrorist groups has declined, although it would be wrong to give details.

Sinn Fein

Sinn Fein's views may be abhorrent but the government believe the power to proscribe should be used against criminal/terrorist actions, not against the expression of views by political parties.

Sinn Fein, however abhorrent its refusal to condemn the use of violence for political ends, does not appear to warrant proscription. It is not as an organisation, primarily and actively engaged in terrorist activities.

Making Belfast Work

Special initiative for socially deprived areas of Belfast. An additional £124m public expenditure has been allocated to the programme between 1988/89 and 1993/94, £24m of which has been allocated to the programme in the financial year 1993/4.

Londonderry Initiative

Special initiative announced by Government in 1988 seeks to address various aspects of urban decline and social and economic deprivation in Londonderry area. In 1993/94 financial year a total of £3.064m has been allocated to the initiative bringing total funding to around £15m. This funding is additional to mainstream Departmental

programmes in Londonderry and is programmed through an Inter-Departmental Working Group.

Belfast Action Teams

Set up in 1987, nine teams now operate in areas of Belfast suffering from multiple deprivation. Working in close co-operation with local community groups, teams provide a valuable link between the groups and statutory bodies and use their resources mainly to pump prime and pilot projects which will improve the quality of life of local people. Expenditure to date totals £30m. Provision for 1993/94 is £8m.

Fair Employment

The Fair Employment Commission's register now consists of approximately 4000 firms (ie all those with over 10 employees) and the 1993 monitoring exercise is virtually complete. Most firms which first registered in 1990 have carried out their first 3 year statutory review of employment practices and are implementing affirmative action measures where necessary. An analysis of the 1990-92 monitoring returns shows a small but significant increase in the proportion of Roman Catholics in monitored employment.

Sex Equality

In response to the request from the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Women's Issues action plans have now been produced by all NI Government Departments and forwarded to the Committee Secretariat.

Industrial Relations

Northern Ireland's excellent

industrial relations record is reflected in the very low incidence of days lost through strikes. In 1992 only 14 days per 1,000 employees were lost through strikes. This very low figure, less than half that in 1991, continues the significant downward trend in days lost over the last 5 years.

Economic Development Strategy

- Government's strategy is to improve the competitiveness of NI industry and commerce which is the basis for growth and durable employment. A further dimension has been added to this strategy through an initiative which encourages industry to be more responsive to environmental pressures. Government plans to spend some £472m on economic development in 1993/94.

Economic Situation

Seasonally adjusted unemployment in Northern Ireland has fallen for six out of the last twelve months and at September 1993 was almost 2,500 below the same month last year. Between September 1992 and September 1993 the seasonally adjusted total fell by 2.2% in NI while it increased in every other region in the UK except North West and South West.

Training & Employment Agency

Set up in April 1990 the Agency's overall aim is to assist economic growth by ensuring the provision and operation of training and employment services, which contribute to Northern Ireland firms becoming more competitive and to individuals obtaining the skills required for increased competitiveness and for securing employment.

At present there are over 30,000 people benefiting from the T+EA's

employment and training measures. The budget for 1993/94 financial year is £195.4m.

Housing

The overall level of funding for housing in NI in 1993/94 is £553m, and increase of 4% over 1992/93 outturn. The NIHE share of this is £506m.

Some 66% of householders own their homes.

Some 56,000 houses have been sold by NI Housing Executive.

Housing conditions continue to improve with a 20% reduction in unfitness between 1987 and 1991 (the most recent survey).

Education

- Spending on Education will be £1.2 billion in 1992/93 - increase of 8.8% over final outturn for 1991/92 excluding YTP. From 1979 to 1993 it will have increased by 32% in real terms.

Health

- Spending on the health and personal social services in 1993/94 will exceed £1.3 billion including a transfer of £25m from the Social Security Programme for Community Care an increase of 5% over 1992/93 and 42% in real terms over 1979/80 (or 40% excluding the Social Security Transfer).

Additional funding of almost £10m has been allocated to Health Boards in Northern Ireland to help reduce waiting times for treatment over the next 3 years -approximately £5m of this will be aimed specifically at reducing waiting lists for cardiac surgery.

Social Security

Spending on the social security benefits system for 1992/93 will exceed £2bn. This represents an increase of 14% in real terms over 1987/88. Social security benefits are paid on the basis of parity with Great Britain.

Rural Development

The Northern Ireland Rural Development Council was set up as part of Government's initiative to assist the self-help regeneration of the most disadvantaged rural areas of Northern Ireland. The Council has progressed well in the establishment of its support structures for community groups and recently published its first Annual Report. The three area co-ordinators appointed by the Department of Agriculture have been actively involved in providing a co-ordinated and integrated public sector response to rural community development plans and projects.

Six rural regeneration projects being promoted under the rural development programme have been launched to date. Funding packages of up to £1.8m include contributions from the International Fund for Ireland, the EC, Government and the communities involved.

Industrial Research & Technology Unit (IRTU)

In keeping with the R & D strategy for Northern Ireland, and UK White Paper on Science and Technology (S&T) IRTU promotes the crucial connection between innovation and increased competitiveness. Since its establishment in March 1992 it has already delivered almost £20m

in support for R & D activities from EC Structural and Framework programmes and £3m from the IFI (International Fund for Ireland). In addition it has provided almost £10m support for a range of schemes designed to improve industrial competitiveness including the most successful Teaching Company and SMART schemes. Recently it helped Du Pont and Seagate Technologies establish new R&D facilities in Londonderry; introduced a new technology audit scheme; established the new EC Relay Centre in Northern Ireland; and announced the introduction of a new Environmental Audit Scheme in the Autumn; and participated in the presentation of UK R&D capability in Japan. In prompt response to the endorsement of local initiatives in the recent UK White Paper on Science and Technology the IRTU Corporate Strategy for R & D activity in Northern Ireland for 1993/95 is now published. So also is a new IRTU Booklet describing the main centres of R&D capability in N.I.

Agri-Environment Programme

The proposed NI Area Programme under the Agri-Environment Regulation was submitted to the European Commission for approval in July.

The proposed Programme, which reflects the continuing process of integrating environmental objectives into Agricultural policy, involves 3 existing and 2 new Environmentally Sensitive Areas together with 3 new schemes covering respectively protection of moorland vegetation, creation of wildlife habitats and aid for organic farming.

The existing area designated as environmentally sensitive in

Counties Antrim, Down and Fermanagh is 120,000 hectares or 11% of the agricultural land in Northern Ireland. The addition of the 2 new areas in South Armagh and the Sperrins will bring the designated area up to 20%.

The annual budget for the complete proposed NI Programme peaks at about £6.5m per year.

Environment

Given the nature and scale of the industrial base Northern Ireland is relatively free from the effects of pollution associated with heavy industry. Overall environmental quality is high with only localised or short-term episodes of pollution, which are being addressed. Environmental Services of DOE (NI) plays a vigorous role in the prevention of pollution. Controls on emissions to the atmosphere and liquid discharges are being augmented by enhanced standards for waste disposal.

The official designation of ASSI's and AONB's and listing/scheduling of historic monuments and buildings is proceeding. In all cases work started much later than in the rest of the UK and there is still a long way to go to catch up, not only with the official recognition and conservation procedures but also with the presentation and marketing of the results to the public both at home and abroad.

Planning

In Northern Ireland all planning functions are carried out by the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland. During the period April 1992-March 1993 it decided over 18,000 planning applications of which 90% were

approved. By 31 August 1993 there were 41 designated Conservation Areas with a rolling programme to designate others over the next few years. Apart from Craigavon and the rural parts of Newtownabbey and Castlereagh all district council areas in Northern Ireland have a current statutory area plan. A plan for Newtownabbey is underway and plans for the other 2 areas should be commenced later this year. The Minister has also announced the outcome of the Departments review of rural planning policy.

Finance

Public Expenditure figures for NI for the 3 years 1993/94 to 1995/96 are £7.5m, £7.7m and £8.0m respectively. The 1993/94 figure is an increase of 5.4% (£384m) over 1992/93 estimated outturn. Spending per head continues to be about a 1/3 higher than the UK average reflecting the particular needs and circumstances of the province.

Tourism

The NITB is responsible for the promotion, marketing and development of NI as a tourist destination, thereby maximising the tourist industry's potential as a significant creator of wealth and jobs. Figures for 1992 show a further encouraging 6% increase on 1991 level to 1.255m visitors.

The NI Tourist Board is currently working on a revision of its Indicative Plan which highlights investment opportunities in the tourism sector and hopes to publish its Sustainable Tourism Study in the near future.

European Community

NI's status as a priority 'objective 1' region gives it higher rates and levels of EC grant than other UK regions. All the programmes within the current Community Support Framework (including the initiatives) are now on target to be fully implemented. The consultation process on post 1993 funding is now complete. The Northern Ireland Structural Funds Plan (1994-99) will be lodged with the Commission by 3 November deadline. The Commission have up to 6 months to respond with their Community Support Framework.

Community Relations

- Funding for Community Relations has increased from £1m in 1988-89 to more than £7m in 1993-94. These resources will be directed at major community relations initiatives such as the NI Community Relations Council, the District Council programme, community relations reconciliation bodies, a cultural traditions programme, which includes support for the Irish language, and the provision of community based facilities accessible to all sections of the community.

Equality and Equity

- Targeting social need is a NI public expenditure priority. It aims to target Government programmes more sharply at areas of greatest need thereby reducing social and economic differentials between the two main sections of the community.

- A consultative document seeking views on the scope and form of legislation to outlaw racial

discrimination was issued in December 1992. Responses are now being considered with a view to providing proposals later this year.

A review of the effectiveness of the Fair Employment (NI) Act 1989 and progress towards equality of opportunity and fair participation in employment is underway. A report will be produced by the end of 1995.

Under the Policy Appraisal and Fair Treatment initiative guidance is being drawn up for NI departments and the NIO to ensure that, in relation to selected groups, considerations of equality, equity and non discrimination are built in from the outset to the preparation of policy proposals and the delivery of services.

Citizens Charter

Nine service Charters have now been published, along with a Guide to the Environment and local Charters from the 4 Health and Social Services Boards. Charter statements for the Northern Ireland Court Service and Driver and Vehicle Licensing will be issued in September. Other charters covering Further Education, Compensation Agency and Valuation and Lands Agency are planned.

A separate but parallel review, to that being conducted in GB, of complaints systems has begun in Northern Ireland. The aim of the reviews will be to make sure that public service complaints systems operate in line with Citizen's Charter principles.

Agriculture

Total income from farming increased by 20% in real terms in

1992, to a level comfortably above the average for the last decade. Final figures for 1991 show that income rose in that year rather than declining slightly as originally forecast. At individual farm level, incomes increased across all farm types in the 1992/93 account year. For Dairy, LFA Beef Cattle and Sheep and Lowland Livestock farms, the increase was substantial. Data is not yet available for 1993 across all farm types but the industry should benefit from CAP reform and the green pound devaluations which followed Sterling's departure from the ERM. Forecasts have been made of incomes for LFA Beef Cattle and Sheep farms for 1993/94 and these indicate a further improvement for these farms.

The measures adopted to reform the CAP with effect from 1 January 1993 will have significant impact on beef cattle and sheep producers. The switch from market (end-price) support to support paid directly by way of livestock subsidies will increase the value of subsidies to cattle and sheep producers from £85m in 1992 to some £159m in 1995.

Upgrading of Belfast - Dublin Railway Link

Work began in 1992 on upgrading Belfast - Dublin rail link and is due for completion in 1994. Total cost is about £80m with about £32.5m falling to NI. Most of cost (75% in NI and perhaps more in Republic of Ireland) will be met by EC grant. Scheme will include new rolling stock and reduce journey time to 1 hour 35 minutes for approx 100 mile trip.