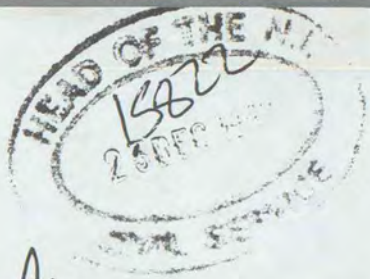


CONFIDENTIAL



FROM: P BELL, AUS(L)
23 December 1992

Mr Ledlie

Pat

7/1

cc ~~PS/Mr Fell~~
Mr Thomas
Mr Deverell
Mr Brooker

Exceller.
Phil
23/12
in the folder

UNDER/
SEC 923/12
30 DEC 1992
CENT SEC

cc Mr Watkins

BLOODY SUNDAY

Thank you for your timely minute of 22 December. SIL and I had been exploring for some time the possibility of doing something for precisely the kind of therapeutic reasons you and Mr Fell have suggested. I hope, therefore, to circulate for discussion as soon after 4 January as possible a draft submission which we already had on the stocks, but amended in the light of the Culture and Identity Speech, a possible 'Ceasefire', and any fall out from bugging of Mr Hume's Office.

(Signed PNB)

P N BELL
OAB 6469

ASST./
SEC 611
- 4 DEC 1993
C.C.R.U.

CONFIDENTIAL

SMJ/AUSL/22618

p/A Security Policy + the Community.
CONFIDENTIAL

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FROM: J K LEDLIE
22 December 1992

cc PS/Mr Fell - B
Mr Thomas
Mr Deverell

15750

MR BELL

UNDER/ 902/12
23 DEC 1992
CONF SEC

cc. Mr Watkins

Mr McArthur

BLOODY SUNDAY

I enclose a copy of a note dated 18 December from David Fell regarding the possibility of revisiting the question of "healing the wounds" of Bloody Sunday in the context of next year's (I am not sure when the actual anniversary will be) 21st anniversary of the event.

2. I discussed the various possibilities with David Fell this morning; and he asked me to contact you to say that, if you have the time and opportunity, it would be very helpful if you could prepare a short assessment of the possibilities (including where we left things last year and the options for the coming anniversary) for a number of us to review on 4 January 1993 (or shortly thereafter) when David is back in office.

3. [REDACTED] it may be useful to ask him for an up-to-date assessment of the "Bloody Sunday Initiative" and the extent of their involvement with Sinn Fein.

Signed JKL

J K LEDLIE
Ext 3286

ID 41444

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ASST/ SEC
- 4 DEC 1992
CCRU



Pat 7/1
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-4 DEC 1993
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NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ



William Chapman Esq
No 10 Downing Street

Ts/s/s' (B.L.)
Ts/Mr Nates (B.L.)
Ts/PUS (B.L.)
Ts [redacted]

Mr Thomas
Mr Liddle
Mr Steele
Mr Bell
Mr Marsh
Mr Cooke
Mr Brooks
Mr West MC 4070

UNDER/ 22nd December 1992
929/12
30 DEC 1992
CENT SEC
Mr N. Liddle
Mr [redacted]

Paul William,

Thank you for your letter of 2 December, enclosing a letter which the Prime Minister received from John Hume MP.

Mr Hume wrote to the Prime Minister, after a meeting with a group representing relatives of the 13 people killed on 30 January 1972, "Bloody Sunday". He asks the Prime Minister to support the relatives' request for a declaration from the Government that those who lost their lives on "Bloody Sunday" were not involved in any illegal activity, did not belong to any illegal organisation and "were not engaged in any activity on "Bloody Sunday" which in any way justified the taking of their lives by the British Army". Mr Hume considers that such a declaration would be widely welcomed throughout Ireland and Britain, in the approach to the 21st anniversary of "Bloody Sunday" next year.

We believe that the group which Mr Hume met was, in fact, the Bloody Sunday Justice Campaign, whose Chairman, Mr John Kelly, wrote to the Prime Minister on 2 July. The Campaign is seeking to persuade the Government to "publicly and unambiguously acknowledge that all those killed or injured were totally innocent"; publicly repudiate the report of the Widgery Inquiry into the events of "Bloody Sunday"; and bring about the prosecution of the soldiers who were responsible for opening fire on the civilians. The campaign has attracted some support in Londonderry and the USA.

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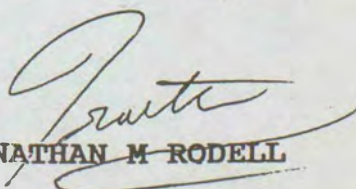
One rather odd twist to this story, which may or may not prove to be significant, is that the Bloody Sunday Justice Campaign have their offices in a building in Londonderry from which, last week, the police recovered equipment that had been used to tap Mr Hume's 'phone. The attached article in The Guardian from 15 December mentions this connection. It is by no means clear at this stage, however, that there is any direct connection between the Justice Campaign and interference with Mr Hume's telephone; indeed, on the face of it this seems unlikely. There are a number of offices in the same building and the question of who was involved in the interception of Mr Hume's 'phone calls will only become clearer as the police investigation continues.

mdge.

Although Mr Hume describes the Group's concerns as "very straightforward and very understandable", it is not, of course, possible for the Prime Minister to rewrite the conclusions of the Widgery Report - in particular, Widgery's finding that, while "none of the deceased or wounded is proved to have been shot whilst handling a firearm or bomb there is a strong suspicion that some others had been firing weapons or handling bombs in the course of the afternoon".

I attach a draft reply, which follows the lines of the Prime Minister's earlier letter.

Yours ever,


JONATHAN M. RODELL

DRAFT LETTER FOR SIGNATURE BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Mr John Hume MP
5 Bay View Terrace
Derry
BT48 7EE

Thank you for your letter of 30 November.

It would not be right for me to seek to cast judgement on the events of "Bloody Sunday" at this distance in time; nor would it be right for me retrospectively to comment on the actions of the soldiers on that day, or on the guilt or innocence of any individual or individuals involved in those events. The Government made clear in 1974 that those who were killed on "Bloody Sunday" should be regarded as innocent of any allegation that they were shot whilst handling firearms or explosives. I hope that, the families of those who died will accept that assurance.

I am well aware of the depth of feeling that remains in Londonderry about "Bloody Sunday". As with every major tragedy, the scars are long lasting. All are determined that the lessons of that day are not forgotten.