

CONFIDENTIAL

423/97

FROM: RUTH OSBORNE
ANDLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT
2 May 1997

- PUS(B&L)
- PS/Sir David Fell
- Mr Carvill
- Mr Elliott
- Mr Loughan
- Mr Semple
- Mr Small
- Mr Spence
- Mr Thomas
- Mr Steele
- Mr Bell
- Mr Blackwell
- Mr Daniell
- Mr Leach
- Mr Shannon
- Mr Stephens
- Mr Watkins
- Mr Wood (B&L)
- Mr Beeton
- Mr Brooker
- Mr Hill
- Mrs Brown
- Mr Buchanan
- Mr Canavan
- Mrs Collins
- Mr Lavery
- Mr Maccabe
- Mr Perry
- Dr Power
- Mr Smyth
- Mr White
- Mr Priestly
- Miss Bharucha
- Miss Devlin
- Ms Mapstone
- HMA, Dublin
- Mr Lamont, Rid



*Mrs McKelvey
No Annex A - Hopefully
will follow.
HD 6/5*

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

NOTE OF A DELEGATION MEETING HELD AT THE ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT ON 1 MAY 1997

A Delegation meeting took place at Maryfield on 1 May 1997. The British side was represented by Mr Fisher, Mrs Osborne and Miss Brown. The Irish side was represented by Mr Donoghue, Mr Magner, Mr Dowling and Mr Hackett.

MINISTERIAL CONTACTS POST GENERAL ELECTION

2. Referring to discussions Mr Donoghue had had with PUS earlier in the week, Mr Fisher sought clarification on the Irish side's thinking on possible informal ministerial meetings and the timing of the next IGC. The British side had been left with the impression that the Irish side would not be looking for an IGC until June. Mr Donoghue said he needed to seek advice from Dublin, but early contact between the Taoiseach and PM would be expected, followed either by an 'Adare' type meeting or a formal IGC in the latter part of May. He agreed that the former was more likely should there be only political matters on the agenda.

LOYALIST PROTESTS AT HMP MAZE

3. Mr Donoghue commented that media reports suggest that the Loyalist prisoners protest at HMP Maze about conditions imposed following the outcome of the inquiry into the discovery of the tunnel built by PIRA prisoners had come to an end. A compromise seemed to have been reached with NIO officials on the basis that head counts could be made without lock-ups being necessary. Mr Fisher said he was aware of meetings taking place with NIO officials.

PROPOSED 'LOYALIST SOLIDARITY ON THE RIGHT TO MARCH' PARADE IN DUNGANNON ON 2 MAY 1997

4. Mr Fisher said that a parade organised by the 'Loyalist Solidarity on the Right to March' was scheduled to take place in Dungannon the following evening (2 May). Sixteen bands and about 2,000 supporters were expected to take part. The parade route would be confined to predominantly Protestant areas, and an address by various speakers, perhaps including Rev. Ian Paisley MP, would be made. No trouble was anticipated here, as far as Mr Fisher was aware at Harryville this forthcoming weekend.

FORTHCOMING PARADE IN LOWER ORMEAU ROAD

5. Mr Donoghue drew attention to an article in the Irish News which reported a parade was shortly to take place on the Ormeau Road. He inquired about the precise date. In undertaking to make enquiries, Mrs Osborne pointed out that the

CONFIDENTIAL

Irish side had raised with Mr Steele earlier in the week the planned parade on 10 May in that area, which may be what the article was referring to.

ASSAULT ON ROBERT HAMILL IN PORTADOWN ON 26 APRIL

6. Referring to an article in the Irish News, Mr Donoghue indicated that the Irish side had received representations from Mrs Brid Rogers about a sectarian assault by a Loyalist gang on Mr Robert Hamill at the entrance of Woodhouse Estate, Portadown on the evening of 26 April 1997. The Irish side understood that the Loyalist gang jumped on top of Mr Hammil shouting 'die you fenian bastard' whilst a police landrover stood by without intervention. Mr Donoghue inquired why the police ignored the incident? Mr Fisher undertook to make inquiries.

PBRs

7. Mr Donoghue indicated that it had been drawn to the Irish side's attention that the police and Army were intending to use a stock of PBRs which were defective. They had a greater weight, higher velocity and hence increased impact with consequential risk of serious injury. Expressing concern, he inquired whether this was the case. Inquiring about the Irish side's source, (without response) Mr Fisher undertook to make inquiries.

OUTSTANDING IRISH SIDE LOG CASES/QUERIES:

Security Measures for [REDACTED]

8. Mr Fisher indicated that the British side were following up [REDACTED] request for the installation of security measures at her home following the claim that she was being targetted by the LVF. Mrs Osborne added that a threat assessment from the police was awaited by POB before any measures could be put in place.

Illegal Ramps at Jonnesborough, South Armagh

3

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

9. Mr Fisher reported that the temporary ramps believed to have been installed by Sinn Fein had now been removed by the DOE(NI). The DOE (NI) would be carrying out a traffic survey to ascertain whether traffic calming measures were required. (Note subsequently handed to Irish side)

Prisoner Roisin McAliskey (Log No 2314)

10. With regard to arrangements for the birth of Prisoner Roisin McAliskey's child, Mr Fisher reported that the prisoner was being seen regularly by a prison consultant obstetrician. [REDACTED]

Alleged Assault by Prison Officers of Prisoners [REDACTED] at HMP Maze on 28/29 March (Log No 2340)

11. Mr Fisher reported that he believed two prisoners received some injuries when an attempt to control and restrain them was made during search operations of the H Blocks following the discovery of the escape tunnel. A fuller and formal response to the Irish side Log case should be available shortly.

Incident at Aghalan Bridge (Log No 2324)

12. Mr Donoghue inquired about a response to the Irish side query earlier in the week. Mr Fisher said that a reply was awaited from the relevant Division.

DAIL PQ RE DETAILS OF 'UDR' PERSONNEL CONVICTED OF SERIOUS OFFENCES

13. Mr Donoghue inquired about an early response to the requested information to answer a Dail PQ asking for the number and details of serving 'Ulster Defence Regiment' personnel who had been convicted of serious offences while on duty, and what disciplinary action had been taken. Mr Fisher pointed out the information requested was not available to the NIO, and therefore the Irish side query had to be referred to the MOD. As it was not readily available, some time

and effort would be involved in compiling what was sought. (Dail Question since answered in the absence of the requested information; see below.)

REPLIES TO DAIL PQs

14. Mr Donoghue handed over copies of replies by the Tanaiste to PQs in the Dail, which makes reference to discussions within the framework of the Anglo Irish Secretariat on: Bloody Sunday; convictions of 'UDR' personel; and parades and the Talks. (Details circulated separately, not to all.)

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE RE: REV PAISLEY BEING IN POSSESSION OF NIO PAPER ABOUT LABOUR PARTY'S CONFIDENCE BUILDING PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES TO RUC

15. Mr Donoghue drew attention to an article in the Newsletter on 29 April which reported that Rev Ian Paisley MP had an official document about Confidence Building measures which suggested that the Labour Party intended introducing changes to the name and badges of the RUC. He inquired about the authenticity of the report. Mr Fisher commented that the article was not consistent with reports in the previous Sunday Times, which suggested that it might be speculative.

UNAUTHORISED BORDER CROSSING ON 30 APRIL 1997

16. Mr Fisher extended apologies on behalf of the Security Forces for an accidental crossing from county Bridge, South Armagh into Co Monaghan, ROI. He explained that two solders travelling in a civilian vehicle discovered their error when stopped at a Garda checkpoint.

FAIR EMPLOYMENT

17. Mr Fisher handed over a copy of the 1996 PAFT Annual Report. He drew attention to the reference in it that the NIO and NI Departments were committed to equality and equity of treatment in all spheres and levels of Government in NI. PAFT had been discussed the previous evening when Baroness Denton had visited Maryfield for dinner and Mr Fisher also took the opportunity to read from and pass to

the Irish side a copy of a reported interview given by the Chairman of the FEA, Bob Cooper, containing views supportive of the findings of the Hayes Report, and Civil Service policies generally.

CCRC

18. Mr Fisher referred to earlier Irish side concerns about the implications of Irish side rights under Article 7 of the Anglo-Irish Agreement as a result of the establishment of the CCRC. He confirmed that the CCRC had an independent quasi judicial function and were not willing to receive Irish side views or concerns on cases submitted through the Secretary of State. Mr Fisher said that the matter was still under consideration but that in the meantime the Irish side should consider putting forward views directly to the CCRC, which with the consent of the individual concerned might be acceptable.

JUDGEMENT ON PRISONERS DAVANAGH AND QUIGLEY

19. Referring to an earlier request, Mr Donoghue sought a copy of Mr John Kerr QC's Judgement in the above case. In undertaking to try to provide this, Mr Fisher pointed out that as the two prisoners were on temporary transfer from GB to NI they were the responsibility of the Home Secretary.

BRIEFINGS/FUNCTIONS

20. Attached at Annex A are details of forthcoming briefings/functions to be held at Maryfield.

Dinners

21. Mr Donoghue requested that an invitation to dinner be extended to PUS on behalf of the Irish side. He suggested some time round the middle of June would be suitable to the Irish side. Similarly, he also requested an invitation be extended to Mr Steele for some time soon, commenting that the Confidence Issues Stocktake meeting could be postponed to September.

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RUTH OSBORNE