

SPEAKING NOTEThe Irish Minister for External Affairs'
Call on the Secretary of State at 12 noon
on Friday, 1 August

I am glad of this opportunity so soon after our meeting in Brussels to discuss together, on a slightly more formal basis than we did there, matters of common interest to our two countries.

2. I understand you have asked to see me because of your concern about the situation in Northern Ireland. We realise the interest your Government have in this particular question but I hope our conversation will not be limited to this.

Northern Ireland

3. I am very grateful for your clear explanation of your Government's concern about the situation in Northern Ireland. I shall, of course, pass on what you have said to my colleagues in the British Government, but I must emphasise that the question of law and order in Northern Ireland falls entirely within the domestic jurisdiction of the United Kingdom and we should feel bound to resist any attempt to raise the matter at the United Nations. As the Home Secretary pointed out when he spoke in the House of Commons on 22 April, the British Government's view is that the problems of Northern Ireland are most likely to be successfully and permanently solved if the people of Northern Ireland solve them. We are of course in close and constant touch with the Northern Ireland Government as the position

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develops, but the British Government would intervene only with the greatest reluctance and as a very last resort.

4. Despite the set-backs on 12 - 15 July there are some signs which are encouraging. The Northern Ireland Government is now firmly committed to the removal of the main grievances of the Civil Rights movement. This fact is recognised by moderate opinion on all sides and leaders of all groups are showing an increasing readiness to join together in preventing the kind of violence which Londonderry and other towns have just experienced. The greatest risk at the present time seems to be of further outbreaks of hooliganism.

5. You have mentioned in particular the Apprentice Boys of Londonderry's Annual Parade on 12 August. We also have heard reports of the large number of Protestants intending to converge on Londonderry. It is still too early for a final assessment by the Northern Ireland Government of the extent of the danger but we are as anxious as you that the situation should be kept under control.

Troops

6. British troops have been used in Northern Ireland for security duties since April this year, but only to guard key public utility installations: they have not been used to control demonstrations.

7. The use of the U.S.C. is entirely a matter for the Northern Ireland Government. A small number of special

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constables have been employed to assist the Royal Ulster Constabulary (R.U.C.) in routine police duties and we understand that, because of the strain on the resources of the regular police, parties of the U.S.C. have been "stood by" for riot control duty and were used for this purpose in Dungiven. When called for emergency duty of this kind special constables will be equipped only with truncheons and will be used to assist the R.U.C. under the orders and control of the regular police. It is not intended that they should carry arms, although officers of the U.S.C. (who form about one-tenth of the force) will be armed with revolvers as usual.

If Dr. Hillery claims that partition is the root cause of the trouble in Northern Ireland

8. On this I must disagree with you. The root cause of the trouble in Northern Ireland is not partition. A key factor is the frustration caused by unemployment and bad housing conditions. The Northern Ireland Government has enormous difficulties to contend with but it is determined to put right social and economic injustices and to reduce as quickly as possible the high level of unemployment.

European Commission of Human Rights (if raised by Dr. Hillery)

9. I have been told about Mr. Molloy's meeting with our Legal Adviser last week. We would very much like to have helped by giving you a copy of our observations on the

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admissability of the Applications to the Commission but as you know the Human Rights Convention provides that the Commission shall meet in camera and the Commission has taken the line that not only its meetings but also pleadings submitted by the parties in proceedings before it should be treated as confidential. We have considered carefully whether there is any way round this rule which we are sure works to the benefit of all concerned. We have come reluctantly to the conclusion that it would be wrong of us and, in the long run probably unhelpful, to break this rule. I hope you will understand.

Anglo-Irish Trade (defensive)

10. We realise that the Irish Government must be concerned at the imbalance in your trade with us. We have always wondered how much our improved exports have been the result of the Free Trade Agreement and how much they have flowed simply from the overall increase in Irish ^{imports} which has meant that other countries' export performances have improved as much as ours. Be that as it may, the Free Trade Agreement is a package deal. It has its swings and its roundabouts and on the whole I think it is working well. What problems there are can, I am sure, with goodwill be thrashed out at ^{the} regular meetings held to review its operation.

Europe

11. Interested to hear your views on prospects for your application to join the E.E.C.

12. At last week's meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Six, even if no decisions were taken, the Five seem to have left

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no doubt about their determination to maintain pressure on the question of enlargement. The French may now find it increasingly difficult to halt the momentum on enlargement.

13. There are unlikely to be any significant developments before the next meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Six in mid-September. A decision on whether there is to be a summit of the Six would probably be taken then.

14. [Defensive] For use if the Minister asks about a Community of seven; or about the prospects for concluding negotiations with the Six simultaneously.

We have always taken the view that the Communities should be open to all those who seek membership and who are prepared to undertake its obligations. How the negotiations for entry with the applicants are conducted is primarily a matter for the Six. Clearly the different applicants present different problems and we cannot hope to negotiate jointly.

Nigeria

Relief

15. Since our meeting on 14 July we have remained in close touch with the I.C.R.C. whom we understand are following up in a number of places the Lagos talks between M. Naville and General Gowon with a view to putting the arrangements for daylight flights into practice. We also understand that progress has been made in reaching agreement on the technical arrangements for the special relief operation from Cotonou. We are hopeful that the special flights to take urgently

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needed essential supplies into Biafra will take place very shortly.

16. One crucial uncertainty in the present situation is the Biafran position on daylight relief flights. In the past Biafran willingness to receive daylight relief flights was conditional on the night airlift continuing, on third party guarantees being given and also limited to a period until a special new airstrip could be built for relief purposes. The latest Biafran statement on relief flights on 23 July indicates no change in their attitude. We believe that if Colonel Ojukwu is in fact prepared to be flexible about these conditions then he should say so unequivocally and without delay in order to facilitate the flow of relief.

The next steps to achieve a negotiated settlement

17. We welcome the determination of the O.A.U. to continue their efforts. We remain convinced that given flexibility on both sides a negotiated settlement is possible and that the O.A.U. is the body best placed to bring this about. At the end of this month His Holiness the Pope is due to visit Kampala where he will meet a number of O.A.U. Heads of State. President Obote has publicly invited both General Gowon and Colonel Ojukwu to Kampala during the Pope's visit. General Gowon has sent a high level delegation to Kampala. Colonel Ojukwu has also sent a delegation. There is just a possibility therefore - I would not put it any higher than that - that this will provide an opportunity for a further initiative to promote negotiations.