



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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Mr. Nally

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Counsellor  
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Mr. Collinge

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JY JULY, 1987  
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TO HQ FROM BELFAST

6/7/87

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KING'S SPEECH

FOR O TUATHAIL FROM LILLIS

PLEASE COPY P. COLLINS

THE DRAFT HAS NOT YET REACHED ANYTHING LIKE FINALITY BUT IT HAS BEEN WORKED OVER A GOOD DEAL BY KING HIMSELF.

THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT IS AN INDICATION OF THE TONE AND THEMES THAT WILL PROBABLY PREDOMINATE.

TONE

THE TONE WILL BE ONE OF CAUTIOUS ALTHOUGH REASONABLE OPTIMISM. KING WILL NOT CROW OVER THE UNIONISTS IN THEIR CHANGE OF POSITION NOR WILL HE SUGGEST A WILLINGNESS TO GO IN ANY SPECIFIC NEW DIRECTIONS.

## MAIN POINTS

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KING WILL TAKE AS HIS 'TEXT' THE REFERENCES TO NORTHERN IRELAND IN THE QUEEN'S SPEECH, REFERRING TO THE IMPORTANCE OF DIALOGUE WITHIN NORTHERN IRELAND AS WELL AS DIALOGUE WITH THE IRISH GOVERNMENT.

HE WILL RECALL THE MEETING OF MOLYNEAUX AND PAISLEY WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF FEBRUARY '86 AND THE STATEMENT THEREAFTER WHICH CONTAINED A DEGREE OF COMMITMENT ON BOTH SIDES TO DIALOGUE.

HE WILL THEN SUGGEST THAT THERE ARE VARIOUS FACTORS IN THE SITUATION WHICH ARE SEEN AS CAUSES OF CONCERN BY VARIOUS PEOPLE:

- IT IS A FACT OF LIFE THAT THE SYSTEM OF 'DIRECT RULE' IS NOT SEEN BY EVERYONE AS PERFECT.
- SIMILARLY IT IS A FACT OF LIFE THAT THE SYSTEM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS NOT TO EVERYONE'S SATISFACTION.

IT IS ALSO A FACT OF LIFE THAT THE OPERATION OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE IS A MATTER OF CONCERN TO SOME PEOPLE.

KING WILL ARGUE THAT IF PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THESE MATTERS, THEY SHOULD TALK TO EACH OTHER. HE WILL ENCOURAGE ALL THE CONSTITUTIONAL PARTIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND TO TALK.

HE WILL SAY THAT THE REPORT OF THE UNIONIST TASK FORCE IS A CONTRIBUTION TO EFFORTS TO GETTING THE DIALOGUE GOING.

HE WILL REPEAT HIS COMMITMENT TO THE GOAL OF DEVOLUTION AND THE RECOGNITION OF AN IRISH DIMENSION.

HE WILL, EITHER EXPLICITLY OR IMPLICITLY, AVOID SPECULATION ABOUT THE TYPES OF DEVOLUTION THAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED OR ABOUT OTHER HYPOTHETICAL WAYS OF RECOGNISING THE IRISH DIMENSION.

(NOTE: BY 'EXPLICITLY AVOID' IS MEANT THAT HE MIGHT SAY 'IT IS NOT FOR ME TO SPECULATE' OR POSSIBLY 'I DO NOT WISH TO SPECULATE ON ETC.')

## IRISH GOVERNMENT VIEWS

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I MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- NOTHING SHOULD BE SAID OR IMPLIED WHICH WOULD SIGNAL ANY POSSIBILITY THAT THE STRUCTURES ESTABLISHED BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ON AN EAST/WEST OR NORTH/SOUTH AXIS WERE AMENABLE TO ADJUSTMENT.
- WE KNEW IT WAS THE POLICY OF THE SDLP THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE SAID WHICH WOULD IMPLY ANY POSSIBILITY OF A ROLE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL NATIONALISM IN A NEW SYSTEM OF DEVOLUTION SHORT OF FULL PARTICIPANTS IN EXECUTIVE DECISION-MAKING.

ELLIOTT NOTED THESE POINTS AND UNDERTOOK TO PASS THEM ON.

CONTACTS WITH UNIONISTS  
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CONTACTS WILL NOT BEGIN TO TAKE PLACE FOR ABOUT A WEEK. IT IS EXPECTED, HOWEVER, THAT FEELERS MAY GO OUT OVER OR AFTER THE WEEKEND ON THE QUESTIONS OF THE WHO, WHEN AND WHERE OF "DISCUSSIONS" (AS OPPOSED TO "NEGOTIATIONS").

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