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1 of 7

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TO: Colm O'Flóinn
Anglo/Irish

cc

*See. of Legation
Cunniff, A
Mrs. Mc Intyre / file
Mrs. P. Hickey D/Justice
Mrs. S. Hare D/Foreign*

FROM: Ambassador

DECOMMISSIONING: MEETING WITH *BOX*

[Signature]

GENERAL de CHASTELAINE

1. The British High Commissioner and I met General de Chastelaine in his office at National Defence Headquarters at 11:30 this morning. He was on his own. He thanked us for coming and described our meeting as an informal conversation which, he said at the end, had been helpful in putting him in the picture.

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2 of 7

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2. The conversation jumped back and forth and what follows is not a fully chronological account. My British colleague had phoned me before-hand to touch base on what we would say. He seemed more focussed on the practical aspects of the Body's work: I suggested that we should also go over the terms of reference and be ready to explain our understanding of them and to answer, so far as we could, any questions the General might have. My impression is that while Sir Nicholas had the basic documents with him, he did not appear to have a specific brief for the meeting as had been supplied for my use by the Department of Justice.

3. At an early stage in the meeting when Sir Nicholas referred in a general way to London's readiness to be helpful, the General, a little sharply I thought, said that he understood that the Body would commute between Belfast and Dublin. There was no requirement, was there, to visit London at any stage? Sir Nicholas agreed that this was the case: anything that might be needed from London could, of course, be supplied in Belfast.

4. Sir Nicholas had also consulted me on the timing of the Commission's Report and he readily agreed that we should say

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3 of 7

that the request in paragraph 11 for a report by mid - January should be taken to mean what it said. General de Chastelaine in fact raised the point and also asked whether "report" in this context meant an interim or a final report. In regard to the second part of the question, we referred him to the text of paragraph 11.

5. General de Chatelaine referred to his early years in Scotland and said that he had some understanding of the British and Irish military mentality from having worked under both a British and an Irish commanding officer, the latter being the Irish UN commander in Cyprus.

6. General de Chastelaine asked whether it was the case that the arms referred to in the communique were para-military arms, even if that term had not been used. We confirmed his understanding that arms held by the security forces were not included.

7. Sir Nicholas, in his presentation, focussed on the two items contained in paragraph 7 and the General had clearly studied them carefully. I in turn drew attention to the overall

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H of 7

objective, on which the two governments agreed, of securing the early launch of all-party negotiations; the twin track approach was designed to remove or to circumvent the obstacles to achieving that objective. Neither track should be regarded as a totally separate track unrelated to the other or to the overall objective. I went on to make the point that the most important requirement was that the arms should remain silent and that both Governments were agreed that this was a superior aim to decommissioning. In the course of the subsequent exchanges, I contrived to put all of the D/Justice points on the table. I emphasised, for example, the independence conferred on the Body and the broadness of its remit, mentioning paragraphs 5,6,7,and 8.

8. I felt that General de Chastelaine was quite struck by the point that what the Body should not do was to place obstacles on the path to political progress and he seemed to me to signal his agreement with it. His comments also suggested that he thought that decommissioning could not be seen in purely military terms.

9. The General asked what Washington 3 meant - he had seen references to it. Sir Nicholas explained the background,

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5 of 7

mentioning, in this context, the differences between our two governments on when decommissioning should start. I said that we were equally committed to complete and early decommissioning and referred to the Taoiseach's expressed concern that paramilitary weapons could end up in criminal hands.

10. The General asked whether all the parties would be prepared to speak to the Body. Sir Nicholas was cautiously optimistic on that score. I stressed the importance, in this context, of the Body's perceived independence and the fact that the Governments had given it total latitude in regard to the scope of the presentations to be made to it. If the Body needed advice on contacts etc., both governments stood ready to provide the necessary information. I added that Dublin would, of course, respond positively to any request for information or briefing from the Body or individual members. (My feeling is that it is unlikely that General de Chastelaine will seek any briefing on his own.) Sir Nicholas made a mention of the need for confidentiality in some areas. The General then - as on other occasions - adopted an independent posture. He had said at the start of the meeting that, after a certain date, he would be working for our governments and not for the Canadian government, even though he would continue as Chief

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6 of 7

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of Staff until 28 December. He now said that he saw no need to keep the Canadian authorities informed about his work on the Body - it was clear that he would not do so. I added that he was not required to keep our governments informed either - a comment he accepted with a smile.

11. The General said that as he understood it, the Governments were free to accept or reject the advice proferred. I said that they had agreed to consider constructively any suggestions that would contribute to getting all party talks off the ground.

12. The General remarked that there was a great deal of reading to be done. He acknowledged receiving some material from the Canadian authorities but referred to it, I thought, a bit dismissively. My feeling was that he wished to avoid the impression that he was receiving Canadian briefing. He did not react to an offer to supply him with the background documents, saying that he would get whatever he needed from Senator Mitchell in New York on Saturday. In the circumstances, the Embassy has refrained from sending him the information pack which had been prepared on your instructions. If you think it important, I could have a word with Sir Nicholas

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(I will speak later to Ambassador about Embassy's response)
D. Murphy
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AA Body

de CHASTELAIN, Gen. Alfred John Gardyne Drummond, CMM, OC, CD, B.A.; soldier, diplomat; b. Bucharest, Rumania 30 July 1937; s. Alfred George Gardyne and Marion Elizabeth (Walsh) de C.; e. Fettes Coll.

Edinburgh 1955; Mount Royal Coll. Calgary 1956; Royal Mil. Coll. Can. Kingston B.A. 1960; Brit. Army Staff Coll. Camberley grad. 1966; m. MaryAnn d. Rev. Dr. A. M. Lavery, Kingston, Ont. 9 Sept. 1961; children: Duncan John Drummond, Amanda Jane; CHIEF, NATIONAL DEFENCE H.Q. 1993-; comnd. 2nd Lt. 2 Bn. PPCLI Edmonton 1960; promoted Capt and named aide-de-camp to Chief of Gen. Staff Army HQ Ottawa 1962-64; Co. Commdr. 1 PPCLI Hemer, Fed. Republic Germany 1964-65; promoted Maj. and Co. Commdr. 1 PPCLI Edmonton and later served with 1 Bn. UN Force Cyprus 1967-68; appointed Bgde. Maj. 1 Combat Group Calgary 1968-70; Commanding Officer 2 PPCLI Winnipeg 1970-72 and promoted Lt. Col.; attended Laval Univ. under Federal Bicultural Program 1972-73; St. Staff Offr. Quartier Général Dist. 3 Qué. (Milice) Québec City 1973; promoted Col. and Commdr. Cannd. Forces Base Montreal 1974; Depy. Chief of Staff HQ UN Forces Cyprus and Commdr. Cannd. Contingent 1976; promoted to Brig. Gen. 1977 and appd. Commandant Royal Mil. Coll. Can. Kingston; assumed command 4 Cannd. Mechanized Bgde. Group Lahz. Fed. Republic Germany 1980-82; appointed Director General Land Doctrine and Operations NDHQ, Ottawa 1982-83; promoted Maj. Gen. 1983 and appd. Depy. Commdr. Mobile Command, St. Hubert, Que.; promoted Lt. Gen. 1986 and appointed Asst. Depy. Min. (Personnel) at NDHQ Ottawa; Vice Chief, Defence Staff 1988; promoted Gen. 1989 and appd. Chief of the Defence Staff; Cannd. Ambassador to the United States Jan. 1993-Dec. 1993; Chief of the Defence Staff 1994-; Past Vice-Pres. Nat. Council, Boy Scouts of Can.; Past Pres. Dominion of Canada Rifle Assoc.; Vice-Pres., Nat. Rifle Assn. (UK); appd. Commander of the Order of Military Merit 1984; Officer of the Order of Canada 1993; Officer of the Order of St. John 1987, Commander 1991; Commendation Medal of Merit and Honour (Greece); Conference of Defence Assns. VIMY Award 1992; Presbyterian; recreations: fishing, painting, jogging, Scottish country dancing; Clubs: Royal Military College of Canada Club; Royal Kingston Un. Services Inst.; St. Andrew's Soc. of Montreal; Royal Scottish Country Dance Soc.; Office: 101 Colonel By Dr., Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0K2

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