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REPORT FROM ROD LYNE
ON MEETING BETWEEN
PRIME MINISTER MAJOR AND DAVID TRIMBLE
ON
THURSDAY 16TH NOVEMBER, 1995.

Rod Lyne rang me at 9pm last evening to give me the following report.

1. After a hour and a quarter meeting the British were satisfied that David Trimble did not say no (although not saying yes) to participation in the Twin Track.
2. David Trimble expressed concerns that Washington Three be adhered to (Rod Lyne said that the Prime Minister said that the British and Irish Governments had clearly different positions on this and their positions would have to be respected).
3. David Trimble said that to enable the UUP to participate in the Twin Track it was critical that there was a fair hearing in preparatory talks for their elected body proposal.

Comment

1. Rod Lyne appeared to be of the view that following overnight consideration and further contact with David Trimble by telephone, the British side would give us specific proposals this evening which could ideally lead to a Summit before the Clinton visit.
2. My own judgement was that the British side may well be aiming for a replay of the postponed 6 September summit - e.g. the reference to both Government's position on Washington Three being respected - thereby underpinning their blaming Sinn Fein (and in an implied way the Irish Government) for the delay between September and now.

3. The British view would also appear to be that we should agree on proposals which both the Unionists and the Nationalists criticise but not to such an extent that they can not reluctantly agree to participate in the twin track.

Paddy Teahon
17th November 1995.

Circulated to: Taoiseach/S.Donlon/F.Murray/S.Kenny/G.Cribben/S.OhUiginn/
T.Dalton.

PERSONAL

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THE PRIME MINISTER

14 November 1995

I'm sorry I haven't been able to get on the telephone today. My week away has left me with a wall-to-wall backlog of meetings before the State Opening of Parliament tomorrow, and I have to spend this evening at the two traditional Eve-of-Session receptions.

As I mentioned in my letter from Auckland, we are working on some proposals to carry things forward, preserving the joint approach between our two Governments. In one of my meetings this morning, I discussed this with Patrick Mayhew. He and I have a bit more work to do over the next couple of days, so that we can put some proposals to you which should have a realistic chance of success. They will of course be consistent with our work on the building blocks, and will also take account of points in your letter to me last week. My aim is to let you have a fully worked out position by the end of the week.

As I said in my last letter, we are trying to calm the Unionists down, although strong reactions to your speech still reverberate in the media both here and in Northern Ireland. Patrick Mayhew is seeing Ian Paisley this afternoon, and I have invited David Trimble to come in for a chat on Thursday. I hope that I shall be able to persuade him not to reject our joint approach entirely, though I don't think it will be an easy discussion.

Mr John Bruton TD

PERSONAL

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