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THE FOLLOWING IS A FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION FROM FAX NUMBER
408 1641

TO Mr Dermot Gallagher (Confidential)
FROM Mr John Hume

REGARDING
DATE 21-12-88 TIME 3:30 ~~PM~~ /P.M.
NUMBER OF PAGES 2 (Including this one)

IF THERE ARE ANY DIFFICULTIES WITH THIS TRANSMISSION, PLEASE CALL
TELEPHONE NUMBER 493 8262

MESSAGE

on 21/12/88
Mr Hume
cc psu; Taird Sec.
Mr Kelly; PEE;
Mr Walters (H/T Sec.)
(3) Councils AS
BS on.
The message is needed
again - take a SDLP file
and take out documents
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Meeting yesterday evening in House of Commons.
Doc. presented by us to DUP + DUP reps.

- 1 The SDLP has studied the document presented to us by both Unionist parties and appreciates that it is a serious effort by those parties to break down the barriers that stand in the way of dialogue.
- 2 The SDLP has no objection to using the period between meetings of the Anglo-Irish Conference in order to have talks between the parties but we would not wish to give any impression whatsoever that the Anglo-Irish Agreement and its workings had been suspended. In the SDLP view the other proposals in the Unionist document are designed to give that impression and lack credibility insofar as they imply that the full facts should be kept from the public. We believe that such an approach is neither possible nor desirable.
- 3 The SDLP therefore feel that it would be much more credible and much more honest for the parties to openly declare that they were going to engage in talks completely outside the framework of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.
- 4 We should declare that this approach is accepted by all parties as without prejudice to the attitudes of any of the parties to the Anglo-Irish Agreement.
- 5 We should declare that our objective in these talks would be to achieve an agreement that will transcend in importance any previous agreement ever made and that the agenda of the talks will address all of the relationships that can contribute to the realisation of peace and stability.
- 6 The SDLP believe that such an approach will not compromise in any way the stated positions of the parties in relation to the Anglo-Irish Agreement. The parties have already on a number of occasions, outside the framework of the Agreement and without reference to it, indicated their willingness to come together to address serious economic problems. We would believe that our electorate would therefore see no difficulty in the parties adopting the same approach about what are matters of life and death.
- 7 The SDLP believe that in the interests of everyone, before the talks begin the parties should agree on the mechanisms whereby any agreements reached should be endorsed by the people.