



**An Chartlann Náisiúnta**  
**National Archives**

**Reference Code:** 2021/96/37

**Creator(s):** Department of the Taoiseach

**Accession Conditions:** Open

**Copyright:** National Archives, Ireland.  
May only be reproduced with  
the written permission of the  
Director of the National  
Archives.

*to be better*  
*11/9/94*

(27) cc PS7  
 PS8  
 E Finlay  
 R Murray  
 E Mansel  
 M Walker  
 A. L. L. L.  
 A. W. P.  
 C. L. A. - I

**SECURE FAX 703**

**1 September, 1994**

**Pages: 1**

**TO: HQ**

**FROM: BELFAST**

**FOR: BENNESSY  
(in absence O hUiginn)**

**FROM: JOINT SECRETARY**

**Reactions among Loyalist prisoners**

The Chief Probation Officer, Briege Gadd, was in contact with me this morning. We have had useful conversations with her over the last couple of years on developments among paramilitary prisoners.

She expressed her personal delight at the cessation of violence and offered her congratulations on our Government's role.

She said she was surprised by the subdued and suspicious atmosphere both in London, where she was yesterday, and in Belfast last night, and she wanted to let me know that in her view there can be a positive reaction from loyalist prisoners.

She believes the UVF prisoners will take their lead from moderates and should not be too much of a problem although there may be "some settling of old scores". The UDA/UFF are a different matter but can be worked on. She described the present UVF prison leader, Bird, and his advisor, McConnell, as very bright.

She suggested that the Loyalists needed to be "courted", they felt excluded but were open to persuasion. This was principally a role for the British, but we could be helpful also. I drew her attention to the assurances to Unionists and Loyalists in the Ministerial speeches made in the Dail yesterday.

Incidentally, she said that for the first time ever her briefcase was not searched going into her offices this morning. As the security man said to her, "no need to". She felt it would be quite some time before all those involved in the security apparatus in Northern Ireland came to terms with the fact that "their crutch has been taken away".