

E. K.

PAB 863/BN

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NOTE FOR THE RECORD

cc: PS/Secretary of State (L&B) -m
PS/Mr Scott (L&B) -m
PS/Dr Mawhinney (L&B) -m
PS/PUS (L&B) -m
PS/Mr Bloomfield
Mr Stephens
Mr Brennan -m
Mr Chesterton -m
Mr Innes
Mr Elliott
Mr Spence
Mr Gilliland
Mr Bell -m
Mr G Hewitt
Miss Elliott -m
Mr Blackwell
Mr S Hewitt
Mr Andrew MacKay c/o P/O NIO(L) -m

RBS 114/16

DISCUSSION WITH UUP CONTACTS

I received a telephone call this morning from one of my UUP contacts. He was extremely irrate and asked if we were deliberately trying to make sure that talks, at whatever level, would never take place. When I asked him to expand, he told me that an important meeting of the Policy Committee was taking place tonight (he already told me this last week) and that any hope he and his colleagues might have had to encourage that group to engage in discussions with HMG was now dead as a direct result of the Intergovernmental Conference being scheduled for tomorrow, following the Secretary of State's announcement of the dissolution of the Assembly.

2. When he calmed down I told him I was unaware of timings etc of Conferences, but that if his information was correct then there would obviously be a breathing space immediately after such a Conference was held during which some progress might be made.

3. He was very keen to find out timings in relation to the dissolution of the Assembly and I had no doubt from his conversation that the UUP, like their DUP colleagues, will be planning something to mark the dissolution. My contact had the good sense to organise his holidays for some 12 days starting on Thursday and he expressed himself pleased that he had had such foresight as he feels it would be unwise for him to be involved in any unsociable behaviour at this time.

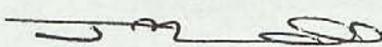
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Comment

4. I believe this contact's anger at what he saw as a deliberate act of provocation from the Government in holding a Conference within the same 7 days as dissolving the Assembly is genuine. He did however go on to say while he now thinks that any sort of talks will be extremely difficult he and others will continue to press ahead on that front.


J E McCONNELL

Political Affairs Division

16 June 1986

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