

RESTRICTED

IMMEDIATE

ZCZC

RESTRICTED

FM FCO

TO IMMEDIATE DUBLIN

TELNO

OF 211615Z AUGUST 86

AND TO IMMEDIATE N10 BELFAST

CALL ON FCO BY DR PAISLEY AND MR PETER ROBINSON

A (slightly) revised version will shortly emanate as a Telegram. But you (+ Mr LUC!) may wish the earliest advance notice (PAB 22/1).

*cc. Ps/POS (L & B) - M
M- Ps/ Mr Bloomfield
Mr Stephens - M
Mr Chester
Mr James - M
Mr Eloff - M.
Mr Blackwell - M
Mr McConnell - M
Miss Eloff
Mr Woods*

1. Dr Paisley, Mr Peter Robinson and another unidentified DUP representative called on Barrie (RID) at their request at 1600 on 21 August. The visitors stayed for forty five minutes.

2. Dr Paisley did most of the talking, though Mr Robinson intervened on one or two occasions. Their message was that Mr Robinson had been treated badly when he appeared in court on 8 August and that Dr Paisley, Mr Robinson and their supporters had been given totally inadequate protection when Mr Robinson appeared in court in Dundalk on 14 August. The following were the main allegations:

a) when Mr Robinson was remanded on bail on 8 August he was given to believe in the morning that bail would be set at Irish pounds 5,000. The court sitting was timed to take place after the banks had shut and the judge then raised the bail to Irish pounds 10,000. They were given only half an hour to raise the extra Irish pounds 5,000. Dr Paisley claimed that this

was a

RID

C D O BARRIE

233 3654

<<<<

was a deliberate attempt to prevent Mr Robinson's release from custody. He also pointed out that pounds sterling 10,000 had been handed over and alleged that the Irish authorities had failed to keep their promise to repay the difference between the sterling and punt values.

b) Dr Paisley complained that despite a public promise allegedly given by the acting Irish Minister for Justice, Mr Noonan, the security provided when Mr Robinson appeared in court in Dundalk on 14 August had been totally inadequate. He claimed that both he and Mr Robinson narrowly escaped with their lives in the face of attacks by quote IRA supporters unquote. He also complained that a number of other elected DUP representatives had been subjected to physical violence while the Garda stood by, and that three DUP members had had to receive hospital treatment.

c) Dr Paisley also said that 100,000 pounds worth of damage had been done to cars belonging to Mr Robinson's lawyer and various DUP supporters because the Garda had failed to protect them properly.

Mr Paisley made two other minor allegations. He said that it was suspicious that the Garda officers on duty in Dundalk had removed numbers from their uniforms and claimed that two men subsequently charged with assault on DUP supporters had been released the same evening. Their treatment differed markedly from that given to Mr Robinson.

3. Dr Paisley said that it was a disgrace that neither the Foreign Office nor the NIO had yet made any representations to the Irish Government about these events. He insisted that it was the responsibility of HMG to ensure the safety of British elected representatives travelling in foreign countries and said that it was the duty of the British Ambassador in Dublin to take these matters up with the Irish Government. He asked repeatedly why no

action

KY 68A

<<<<

action had yet been taken. Mr Robinson expressed grave concern about his safety should he appear in court again, as required, on 2 October.

4. Barrie said that we understood the concerns which Mr Robinson had expressed about his safety at his forthcoming court appearance in the Republic. He undertook to relay these concerns to the Irish authorities and to remind them of the need to provide suitable security for Mr Robinson's next court appearance in the Republic. But Barrie pointed out that the question of compensation for damage or personal injury was a matter for the Irish courts. He refused to comment on the action of the Irish judge in setting Mr Robinson's bail or on the events in Dundalk. In particular, he took care to avoid saying anything that would imply that the Garda had failed to carry out their responsibilities properly.

5. Mr Paisley concluded by saying that he would set out his various complaints in detail in a letter to the Secretary of State. He also said that he would be raising some of these matters in the European Parliament in due course.

6. The above account is for your information only at this stage. News Department intend to confirm, if asked, that Mr Paisley and Mr Robinson called on a senior FCO official at their request and that Dr Paisley wished to make representations about the events surrounding Mr Robinson's recent court appearances in the Irish Republic. They will also say that [it was agreed that] Dr Paisley would write to the foreign Secretary enclosing a list of his ~~complaints~~ ^{complaints}. Finally, they will say that officials agreed to pass on Dr Paisley's representations as appropriate and to remind the Irish authorities of the need to provide suitable security for Mr Robinson's next court appearance in the Republic, and to provide any other assistance and advice which might be necessary.

HOME

XY 48A (P)