

RESTRICTED

UNDER/ 658/6
SEC 2398
24 JUN 1991
CENT SEC

Pal 2.

6
M

FROM: D J R HILL
Talks Secretariat
21 June 1991

IMMEDIATE

cc PS/Minister of State (L&B) - B
PS/PUS (L&B) - B
PS/Mr Fell - B
Mr Pilling - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Alston (L) - B
Mr Wood (L&B) - B
Mr McNeill - B

24/6

Mr Hamilton

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (L&B) - B

THREE LETTERS FROM THE UNIONIST LEADERS

1. The three letters dated 15 June from the Unionist Leaders which arrived at Stormont Castle yesterday raise three minor grumbles and seek:

i. a confirmation that Strand One talks will all take place at Parliament Buildings (in contrast with the meetings Mr Hume held at Aldergrove on 30 May);

ii. an investigation into reports that Lord Carrington's name was leaked by an NIO official;

iii. an understanding that issues for discussions in any meeting should be signalled in advance.

2. There seems no point in making an issue out of any of these matters now that plenary sessions have got under way. A prompt brief reply may therefore be appropriate. I attach a draft for consideration.

Signed:

D J R HILL
Talks Secretariat
21 June 1991

RESTRICTED

CPLHILL/5505/MD

RESTRICTED

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Rt Hon J H Molyneaux MP

and

Rev Dr I R K Paisley MP, MEP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

[OR: Parliament Buildings, Stormont]

1. I am sorry to say that your three letters of 15 June only arrived in my Belfast office yesterday afternoon.
2. Now that plenary sessions of the first strand of the Talks have got under way at Parliament Buildings on the basis of the agreed workplan, some of the issues you raise seem to be safely behind us. I certainly agree that it has been helpful to determine at the end of each session what we intend to discuss in the next session of the Talks. I should be happy to arrange a discussion - perhaps in the small group chaired by the Minister of State - to see whether it might become possible to plan the agenda a little further ahead.
3. As regards the allegation that one of my officials leaked the fact that Lord Carrington was the first nominee for the Chairmanship of the second strand of the Talks to be put to the leaders of the participating parties, I am satisfied that this was not the case.

RESTRICTED

CPLHILL/5505/MD

CONFIDENTIAL