

**INTERVIEWER**

Did you hear anything that gives you hope that perhaps Drumcree could be avoided again this year?

**SIR PATRICK MAYHEW**

Yes, they want to talk with the local Orange and I think that's very important and encouraging and I hope that the local Orange will talk with them because this is going to be resolved by and within the community. It is not going to be resolved, it seems to me, by orders from on high.

**INTERVIEWER**

They released a statement, the Garvaghy Road Residents, they said they were delighted with the meeting, that you are taking their case seriously, is that the case?

**SIR PATRICK MAYHEW**

Well, I hope I have, Mr Hume came with them and I think asked me to meet them with Mrs Brid Rodgers and of course I said I would be very glad to do so. I am very pleased they thought it was a good meeting, I did myself. I think the important thing is, for the Secretary of State to hear all sides. I am looking forward, if they will allow it, I am looking forward to meeting the local Orange and the District Orange and the County Grand if it comes to that, but I want to hear all side and I want to hear how, if at all, they think respectively that I might be able to help.

**INTERVIEWER**

Have they approached you, the Orange men?

**SIR PATRICK MAYHEW**

No, no they haven't yet but these are quite early days and I am hoping that we are going to get this. But of course most important of all is for both sides, each of whom have very strongly arguable cases, strongly arguable cases, to meet and I think there is a recognition that Portadown, let along Northern Ireland cannot afford the repetition of the appalling and abominable actions and scenes of July last year.

**INTERVIEWER**

If it were to prove possible would you act as a facilitator for such a meeting between the Orangemen and the Garvaghy Road Residents?

**SIR PATRICK MAYHEW**

Well, I would act in any way that people sensibly advised me would be helpful, yes of course. I doubt whether they would particularly want the Secretary of State to \*\*\*\* but of course I would if that was thought to be helpful. What I do think is encouraging is that Mr Hume, who played a very positive and courageous part in resolving the issue in Londonderry in early August with the Apprentice Boys March and the residents association in the Bogside, I thought it very encouraging that he was there and no doubt at their invitation, because this shows that people are looking for means by which these difficult issues can be resolved.

**INTERVIEWER**

If I can ask you about the bomb attack in Larne this morning. Loyalists are being blamed do you feel it was the work of loyalists?

**SIR PATRICK MAYHEW**

Well, I don't know enough about it as yet. It may be and if that is so I would condemn it just as vigorously as I condemn the violence that has come from the republicans the day before and indeed the day before that. Violence is evil wherever it comes from and violence must never be allowed to achieve a political objective that would not otherwise be achieved democratically.

**INTERVIEWER**

If it does turn out to be the work of loyalists what are the implications for the UDP and the PUP?

**SIR PATRICK MAYHEW**

Well, I think it depends what loyalists don't you? I have said before and I say it again that if either of those two minority parties is found to have demonstrably dishonoured the principles of democracy and of peaceful means then I don't doubt they will have to leave the talks. I think it is a question of the facts and what the evidence is. I have noticed with reassurance that more than one of their political leaders has said recently that they oppose violence, will continue to oppose violence and are not associated with any violence that has occurred. But I think this is early days. I am sure that my colleagues in the talks process will want to discover more of the facts.

**INTERVIEWER**

You mentioned leaders of the loyalists parties, what role could they play, I mean we have now had three under-car attacks which look to be the work of loyalists, the Chief Constable says the other two were the work of loyalists, but appear now to have got three. Do you think they are playing a positive enough role in condemning these?

**SIR PATRICK MAYHEW**

Well, I think they have already said they are not associated with violence. I think it is very important they should say that, because the Chief Constable actually said that those two, one in Derry and one in Belfast was the work of loyalist extremists and there are extremist groups in the republican side, there are extremists groups in the loyalist side. I think it is very important not to jump to conclusions, we should be glad that those parties are represented in the talks, I would like to see Sinn Fein represented in the talks, as the Government would. But they have got to buy the ticket which everybody else has bought, that is to say committing themselves exclusively to peaceful means. I think that there is a tremendous effort at the moment in some quarters to focus upon what seems to have been done by loyalists rather than focusing quite as much as I think deserves upon hideous attacks upon the RUC, in particular, but also upon civilians perpetrated by the IRA and claimed by them in consequence of a breaking of the ceasefire. I am very glad to say that the combined loyalist military command has not declared an end to the ceasefire which it declared some 27 months ago. That is not decisive, it is a difference and I think it is a welcome difference and I think it is also extremely important that some of these loyalist political party leaders have said the things that they have done dissociating themselves from violence.

**INTERVIEWER**

So finally if I could just say to you, the position is until the CLMC, so called, announced an end to the ceasefire there are no implications .....

**SIR PATRICK MAYHEW**

No, that's not right. The rules which the parties have adopted in the talks relate to the parties taking part in the talks and the rules say, and the ground rules before hand agreed by the two Governments say, that if any of the participants in the talks, any of the parties taking part in those talks is shown to have demonstrably dishonoured the principles which they have signed up of democracy and peaceful means, well then the two Governments will decide what action should be appropriate it may be that they ought to be expelled.

INTERVIEWER

You met with some of the residents of the Garvaghy Road Association this afternoon, did anything come from that meeting?

SIR PATRICK MAYHEW

That was a very useful meeting, they explained to me a lot of the things which are influencing them, I think it is very important that I should understand them, because one thing that we all agreed upon is that Northern Ireland, let alone Portadown, cannot tolerate another July like July 1996.

INTERVIEWER

Can you see 1996 being repeated in 1997, was there a hope for a breakthrough?

SIR PATRICK MAYHEW

Well, I think people are talking now you see and are trying to talk. I believe that this is going to be solved within the community, very difficult to solve it from above and so I think it's a very good thing that they wanted to come and talk to me. I am hoping very much I shall have the opportunity to talk to the local Orange and perhaps the District and the County Grand Orange and that much more important than that those two side should talk to each other.

INTERVIEWER

You also met with John Hume today, has there been any more process with the peace process?

SIR PATRICK MAYHEW

Well John Hume came with them you see and Brid Rodgers of that party and I was very glad that John Hume had come because he played a very constructive role, and if I may say so courageous part in the difficulties at Londonderry with the Apprentice Boys March in the beginning of July last year and I felt that it was an encouraging sign that they wanted to come with him and he wanted to come with them.

INTERVIEWER

He has been talking about furthering the peace process and hopefully putting forward further suggestions, can those be taken on board?

SIR PATRICK MAYHEW

Well, of course yes, what we want to do is to have ten out of ten of

the parties represented in the talks and we have got nine at the moment, why is the tenth not there? Because they won't purchase the same entry ticket that everybody else has. Namely out and out commitment to peaceful methods, they can't secure, they won't secure a ceasefire from the IRA. It is very important I think that Nationalists of all kinds should know that the British Government wants to see an inclusive process there. But we are not going to go and sit down or ask anybody else to sit down with people who are relying, not just on their votes but also on the semtex and the mortars, and the rockets of their friends to get a better deal than they would get otherwise.

**INTERVIEWER**

Well, as you say nine out of ten are talking at the moment, but if the talks are adjourned is there a future for the forum, and what would that future be?

**SIR PATRICK MAYHEW**

Of I think so yes. I mean I believe that as the perceived date of the general election comes and it can't be later than the 1st of May, still I think people will become dominated by those considerations and it will be sensible to suspend the talks. But I very much hope that they will be suspended with everybody saying we are looking forward to coming back shortly after the general election. Because this is the only way in which we are going to come through to a settlement, a new set of relationships, a settlement which will enable people by consent, not by imposition, to find a better way, a more tranquil and therefore a more prosperous way for living together here in Northern Ireland to be verified afterwards by a referendum in Northern Ireland.