

JOHN FISHER
ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT
17 DECEMBER 1996

- CC PS/PUS (B&L) - B
- PS/SIR DAVID FELL - B
- MR CARVILL
- MR ELLIOTT
- MR LOUGHRAN
- MR SEMPLE
- MR SMALL
- MR SPENCE
- MR THOMAS
- MR STEELE
- MR BELL
- MR BLACKWELL
- MR DANIELL
- MR LEACH
- MR SHANNON
- MR STEPHENS
- MR WATKINS
- MR WOOD (B&L)
- MR BEETON
- MR BROOKER
- MR HILL
- MRS BROWN
- MR CANAVAN
- MRS COLLINS
- MR LAVERY
- MR MACCABE
- MR PERRY
- DR POWER
- MR SMYTH
- MR WHITE
- MR PRIESTLY
- MISS BHARUCHA
- MISS DEVLIN
- MS MAPSTONE
- MR WEBB
- HMA, DUBLIN
- MR LAMONT, RID



19/12
Mrs McAuley

LD
19/12

NOTE OF A DELEGATION MEETING HELD AT THE ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT
ON 13 DECEMBER 1996

A DELEGATION MEETING TOOK PLACE AT MARYFIELD ON 13 DECEMBER 1996.
THE BRITISH SIDE COMPRISED MR FISHER, MRS HARPER AND MISS BROWN.
THE IRISH SIDE COMPRISED MR DONOGHUE, MR DOWLING AND MR TIERNEY.
MR BELL JOINED THE MEETING FOR ITS LATTER PART.

SUMMARY

2. TROUBLE AHEAD. AN UP-FRONT ASSAULT BY THE IRISH SIDE ON THE QUALITY OF INFORMATION BEING SUPPLIED IN RELATION TO INCIDENTS, INDIVIDUALS AND OTHER SECURITY RELATED ISSUES (TANAISTE MENTIONED). EXPECTATION, FOLLOWING THESE AND OTHER REPRESENTATIONS, THAT THE BRITISH SIDE (AND THE RUC) WILL BE MORE FORTHCOMING. STRONG DESIRE ON THE IRISH SIDE TO RECIPROCATE WHEREVER POSSIBLE AND BUILD ON THE PRESENT LEVEL OF CO-OPERATION, TO WHICH THEY ATTACH IMPORTANCE. ALSO, SEVERAL DOMESTIC POST CHRISTMAS MARYFIELD RECEPTION MATTERS RAISED AND DESPATCHED IN FRIENDLY FASHION, AS WERE MORE ROUTINE STOCKTAKE ITEMS.

CHRISTMAS RECEPTION: 9 DECEMBER

3. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THE RECEPTION HAD BEEN A GREAT SUCCESS. THE NUMBER OF GUESTS ATTENDING WAS ABOUT 300; A HIGHER PROPORTION OF 'UNIONIST-MINDED' GUESTS HAD ATTENDED, WHICH WAS ENCOURAGING. IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT BUSINESS PREVENTED THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND MICHAEL ANCRAM FROM ATTENDING BUT GOOD TO SEE BOTH BARONESS DENTON AND MR MOSS. MR DONOGHUE DREW ATTENTION TO THE NEED TO EXTEND THE CAR PARKING FACILITIES (SEVERAL CARS QUAGMIRED). MR FISHER CONFIRMED THAT THIS WAS ALREADY IN HAND WITH THE ST PATRICK'S DAY RECEPTION IN MIND, WHICH IT WAS AGREED WOULD AGAIN BE A COMBINED EVENT. THE CREATION OF FURTHER PARKING SPACE WOULD HOWEVER BE COSTLY AND STRETCH THE BRITISH SIDE BUDGET. MR DONOGHUE SAID FURTHER THOUGHT WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE NEED TO RETAIN THE HELICOPTER PAD (RARELY USED AND COSTLY TO MAINTAIN).

4. MR FISHER BELIEVED THAT SOME INVITATIONS HAD BEEN PASSED ON TO OTHERS CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR THE POLICE CONTROLLING ENTRY. IT WAS AGREED TO PUT A STOP TO THIS PRACTICE SUBJECT TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR INVITED GUESTS TO BE ACCOMPANIED.

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MR DONOGHUE SAID THAT THE EVENING HIGHLIGHTED THE URGENT REQUIREMENT FOR A THIRD RECEPTION AREA. THIS WAS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH. MR FISHER SAID THAT THIS WAS ALREADY UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS INCLUDING IMPROVING THE ENTRANCE AND ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED. APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE HAD BEEN GIVEN. COST WAS A MAJOR FACTOR BUT IT WAS HOPED TO DRAW UP DEFINITIVE PLANS NEXT YEAR. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE IRISH SIDE WOULD BE CONSULTED BEFORE DECISIONS WERE TAKEN. FINALLY, IT WAS AGREED TO ROTATE THE COLLECTION OF PICTURES ON LOAN FROM THE DFA IN DUBLIN AND THE NI ARTS COUNCIL. (PEFO TO SEE, WITH APPRECIATION FOR TIMELY APPROVAL.)

'BURNING OF LUNDY' PARADE - 14 DECEMBER, LONDONDERRY

6. MR DONOGHUE SAID HE BELIEVED IT WAS IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES IF THIS MARCH WERE TO GO WELL. IT APPEARED TO BE A TRIUMPHALIST PARADE. HE ASKED THAT JOHN HUME'S EFFORTS IN BROKERING A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME TO THE LAST APPRENTICE BOYS MARCH BE RECOGNISED. THIS POLITICAL DIMENSION SHOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED. IT WAS HOPED THAT THE APPRENTICE BOYS OR THEIR SUPPORTERS WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES OF LOCAL RESIDENTS ESPECIALLY AT THIS FESTIVE TIME OF YEAR. MR DONOGHUE ALSO HOPED THAT THE RUC WOULD BE SENSITIVE IN THEIR HANDLING OF THE MARCH AND MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE.

7. REFERRING TO THE PREVIOUS WEEKEND'S EVENTS AT HARRYVILLE, MR DONOGHUE SAID THAT THE IRISH SIDE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO GAIN FULL BRIEFING. THIS WAS VERY UNHELPFUL, ESPECIALLY AS IT WAS A 'GOOD NEWS STORY' FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE RUC. DUBLIN WERE 'ANGRY' AT THE WAY IN WHICH THIS HAD BEEN HANDLED AND THE MATTER HAD ALREADY BEEN RAISED SEPARATELY. HE HOPED THAT BETTER BRIEFING WOULD BE POSSIBLE OVER THE COMING WEEKEND'S EVENTS.

8. MR FISHER SAID THAT THE BRITISH SIDE SOUGHT TO BE ACCOMMODATING WHEREVER POSSIBLE WHEN IT CAME TO PROVIDING INFORMATION ON EVENTS OF THIS KIND AND HE HOPED THE IRISH SIDE DID NOT FEEL THAT RELEVANT INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE BRITISH SIDE FOR PASSING TO THEM WAS WITHHELD. MR DONOGHUE REASSURED THOSE PRESENT THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE, THE BRITISH SIDE OF THE SECRETARIAT

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BEING HELPFUL AT ALL TIMES. BUT HE WAS DISAPPOINTED BY THE LACK OF 'TRUST' EVIDENT IN THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION WHICH WAS AVAILABLE. HE FELT THERE WAS A STRONG NEED FOR BOTH SIDES TO WORK TOGETHER ON A BASIS OF TRUST; CONFIDENTIALITY ON MATTERS OF THIS KIND WERE ALWAYS RESPECTED. THIS LACK OF TRUST HAD BEEN DEMONSTRATED THE PREVIOUS WEEKEND OVER EVENTS IN HARRYVILLE AND IN THE EXTENT OF INFORMATION PROVIDED REGARDING THE SPRINGVALE WOMENS RESOURCE CENTRE, TO WHICH THE TANAISTE WAS TO ANSWER A QUESTION IN THE DAIL. MR FISHER TOOK ISSUE OVER WHETHER THE IRISH SIDE WERE 'ENTITLED' TO INFORMATION UNDER THE ANGLO IRISH AGREEMENT BUT UNDERSTOOD AND APPRECIATED WIDER IRISH SIDE INTEREST. REPHRASING EARLIER COMMENTS, MR DONOGHUE SAID HE FELT THE IRISH SIDE WERE AT LEAST 'ENTITLED TO RAISE MATTERS OF CONCERN UNDER THE AGREEMENT'. ATTEMPTING TO SOOTHE EVIDENT HURT, MR FISHER EXPRESSED SYMPATHY WITH THE DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY THE IRISH SIDE; IT WAS LIKELY THAT THE ISSUES INVOLVED WOULD BE DISCUSSED BY SENIOR OFFICIALS SHORTLY. MR DONOGHUE APPRECIATED THIS. IF THE PROBLEM WAS FROM WITHIN THE RUC, MR DONOGHUE WOULD, IF NECESSARY, TAKE UP THE MATTER DIRECTLY WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE. (ATTENTION MR PERRY: SPOB ARE NOW ARRANGING A MEETING. MR DONOGHUE HAS SINCE PASSED ON HIS THANKS FOR THE WAY THE SECRETARIAT AND DUTY OFFICER KEPT THE IRISH SIDE UP TO SPEED ON EVENTS LAST SATURDAY).

OUTSTANDING MATTERS RAISED BY THE IRISH SIDE

9. DEMONSTRATING BRITISH SIDE WILLINGNESS, MR FISHER FURNISHED INFORMATION EARLIER SOUGHT BY THE IRISH SIDE CONCERNING FORMER PRISONER MR SEAN O'CALLAGHAN. IN REGARD TO THE CONEY ROAD/CANNINGS LANE BORDER CROSSING, THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE ROYAL IRISH IN PORTADOWN AND A COMPLAINT LODGED BY ROISIN MCALISKEY AGAINST A POLICE OFFICER AT CASTLEREAGH, MR FISHER SAID THAT INQUIRIES WERE BEING ACTIVELY PURSUED. [TWO OF THESE THREE MATTERS HAVE SINCE RECEIVED REPLIES.]

NORTH REVIEW

10. MR DONOGHUE SOUGHT A COPY OF THE SUBMISSION MADE BY PANI TO THE REVIEW. IN DISCUSSION, THERE WAS DOUBT ABOUT ITS STATUS AND THE IRISH SIDE VOLUNTEERED TO MAKE THEIR OWN ENQUIRIES.

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11. MR DONOGHUE ANNOUNCED THERE WAS TO BE A FAREWELL PARTY IN MARYFIELD FOR MR TIERNEY WHO WAS LEAVING TO TAKE UP POST IN THE EMBASSY IN THE VATICAN. MR DONOGHUE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM LADY OLGA MAITLAND THANKING HIM FOR HER INVITATION TO THE CHRISTMAS RECEPTION AND ALSO FOR LUNCH IN THE NEAR FUTURE. MR DONOGHUE ALSO NOTED FOR THE DIARY MR PAUL BEW HAD OFFERED 9 JANUARY AS A POSSIBLE DATE FOR THE CADOGAN GROUP TO DINE AT MARYFIELD. MRS HARPER SAID SHE WOULD CONFIRM THIS WITH THOSE CONCERNED. MR DONOGHUE SAID HE HOPED THAT THE METHODIST CHURCH LEADERS WOULD DINE AT MARYFIELD EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR. [JOLLY MEETING WITH LADY MAITLAND SINCE HELD AND LUNCH UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR 9 JANUARY.]

D E C O M M I S S I O N I N G B I L L

12. MR FISHER OUTLINED THE PARLIAMENTARY TIMETABLE FOR THE BILL AND INVITED THE IRISH SIDE TO CONFIRM THAT IN RESPECT OF THEIR OWN BILL. MR DONOGHUE BELIEVED IT WOULD SPILL OVER INTO THE NEW YEAR, THE DAIL WOULD NOT RECONVENE UNTIL THE THIRD WEEK IN JANUARY. HE WOULD ENQUIRE AND ADVISE THE BRITISH SIDE. MR FISHER CONGRATULATED THE IRISH SIDE ON THE GARDA'S RECENT FIND NEAR ROSSLEA.

C R I M I N A L J U S T I C E

13. MR FISHER PASSED OVER A COPY OF 'CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN NORTHERN IRELAND - KEY STATISTICS 1995' AND EXPLAINED THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH IT HAD BEEN PREPARED. [FURTHER COPIES SINCE RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTED.]

P U B L I C E X P E N D I T U R E B R I E F I N G

14. RESPONDING TO MR FISHER MR DOWLING SAID THE IRISH SIDE WERE GRATEFUL FOR MATERIAL AND FOLLOW-UP BRIEFING. THE IRISH SIDE WOULD BE STUDYING PUBLIC REACTION AND MIGHT SEEK FURTHER INFORMATION. [CENTRAL SECRETARIAT AND DFP TO NOTE.]

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

15. MR FISHER DREW ATTENTION TO THE RECENT 'BELFAST TELEGRAPH' ARTICLE ON THIS SUBJECT AND THE ROLE OF THE IRISH SIDE IN MAKING NOMINATIONS. MR DONOGHUE BELIEVED THERE WAS CONFUSION OVER THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NOMINEES. MR DOWLING SAID 284 NOMINATIONS HAD BEEN MADE BUT ONLY 158 PERSONS WERE INVOLVED, SOME HAVING BEEN NOMINATED FOR MORE THAN ONE POST. [CAU TO NOTE.]

IRISH CITIZENS AND ENTRY TO PUBLIC SERVICE

16. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO DISCUSS LATER THAT DAY THE RELEVANCE OF A RECENT HIGH COURT RULING. (MEETING SINCE HELD USING INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY DFP).

EMERGENCY LEGISLATION: LORD LLOYD'S REPORT

17. MR BELL SAID THAT THE REPORT DEALT WITH LONG TERM ISSUES THROUGHOUT THE UK AND COMMENDED IT FOR ITS INTRINSIC VALUE WHICH MIGHT, ON REFLECTION, HAVE LESSONS FOR THE IRISH ALSO. THE BRITISH SIDE WOULD BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS TO THE BENEFIT OF BOTH SIDES. (MR BELL ALSO ASKED WHAT PRECISELY WAS THE LAW AND PRACTICE IN THE REPUBLIC CONCERNING THE ADMISSIBILITY OF INTERCEPT MATERIAL AS EVIDENCE.)

[SIGNED]

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