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FROM: DAVID KYLE
PS/Secretary of State
23 September 1997

- cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - O
- PS/Mr Murphy (DFP, B&L) - O
- PS/Mr Ingram (DED, B&L) - O
- PS/PUS (B&L) - O
- PS/Sir David Fell - O
- Mr Loughran, DED
- Mr Thomas - O
- Mr Steele - O
- Mr Leach - O
- Mr Stephens - O
- Mr Watkins - O
- Mr Brooker - O
- Mr Hill* - O
- Mr Lavery - O
- Mr Maccabe - O
- Mr Perry - O
- * Action Points



Ncha

It is important that the Irish Secretary undertake his own analysis of N/S co-operation but see if the two lists match.

Mr Bell* - O

COURTESY CALL ON THE SECRETARY OF STATE BY THE IRISH SECRETARY, MR DAVID DONOGHUE - MONDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 1997

You and I were present when David Donoghue made his courtesy call on the Secretary of State at Parliament Buildings on 22 September. The discussions were very friendly and constructive throughout.

The main points touched upon were:

- In recapping on Talks matters it was noted that the two main challenges facing the Government this week were the indictment against Sinn Fein, and taking forward the procedural motion on Wednesday with the aim of getting into three-Stranded Talks on 29

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September. Both sides agreed that there were good working relationships between the Governments at Ministerial and Prime-Ministerial level, and that David Trimble should be clear that he would not be able to drive a wedge between the two Governments. Mr Donoghue expressed concern about the "unfortunate" timing of the Peter Taylor programme, and book, about the IRA and the relationship between senior members of Sinn Fein and PIRA. In noting this point the Secretary of State asked for a line to use on the past/present relationships between Sinn Fein and PIRA. (Action Mr Hill).

- In relation to more openness at Maryfield and on the Anglo-Irish Agreement generally, Mr Donoghue said that he appreciated this was an issue of interest, particularly to Unionists; he would like to help as far as possible. However, the Irish were wary of moving too far too quickly and he noted that the issue was for negotiation once Unionists got into Strand 3. In the meantime he was sympathetic to putting more information about briefings at Maryfield in the public domain, and both Joint Secretaries were keen to have more people of a unionist persuasion visit the Secretariat. The Secretary of State commented that unionists had special demands in this area and she appreciated that it would be inappropriate to "give in" quickly, and also that by the nature of the business transacted under the AIA it was not always easy to be as open as one might like. In addition the Secretary of State emphasised that the present

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Government was very strong on the principle of greater Government accountability and that this should be borne in mind. She asked the two Joint Secretaries to look at this area. (Action: Mr Bell)

- In relation to the current controversy over the Tourism Brand Ireland logo Mr Donoghue expressed himself embarrassed at developments in the South; he was fully aware of the opportunity it handed to those who were less than keen on North/South co-operation. In essence the Irish Minister had felt it necessary to follow on in Government with a policy which had prevailed in opposition. The Secretary of State expressed the hope that the Irish Government would see the difficulty caused. She regretted that this matter should raise its head at a time when the Irish had been making great strides in counteracting Unionist allegations of negativity.

- Turning to Intergovernmental Conferences Mr Donoghue said that he was keen to ensure that more time was devoted to discussion on North/South economic co-operation issues. The Secretary of State agreed and this led her to reinforce her view that this was an area which should be pursued vigorously, rather than awaiting developments through the Talks. Mr Donoghue said there was a wide range of areas where good cross-border co-operation existed; the Secretary of State expressed an interest in developing these and pointing them up as good examples of such work. Even if we were not in the

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middle of Talks these would be very useful areas of work to pursue. The Secretary of State asked that Mr Ingram, in his trawl around Departments for details of cross-border work, should ensure that examples were circulated around Departments so that each might benefit from the experience of the other and perhaps find a basis for further development of their own ideas. (Action: PS/Mr Ingram) Both sides agreed that highlighting the value of such non-contentious areas work should help reduce the fears harboured by some people about developing cross-border co-operation.

Signed

C D KYLE
Private Secretary

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