

From: Derek Wheeler
29 January 2002.

To: PPS/Ministers

cc

PS/Ministers
PS/Mr Loughran
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Mary Bunting
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Advisers

REPORT 29 JANUARY 2002.

1. I attended the meeting with CRUA representatives last night. The meeting was chaired by Nigel Dodds MP and was also attended by MLAs Fred Cobain and Billy Hutchinson. Other officials present included Colin Dunlop for NIO and ACC Alan McQuillan and Ch. Supt. Roger Maxwell for PSNI. Billy Gamble and Heather Bradley of DRD also attended. As the Ardoyne interests had already told CRUA they had recently withdrawn support for the road realignment proposal, I had to confirm that had been Ardoyne's position for a time after the murder of Daniel McColgan, but that they had now agreed to return to consultations. CRUA reps expressed much anger about this delay, but I undertook to do my best to complete the process as quickly as possible. Their demands to complete the whole process before their public meeting this Friday evening are unrealistic, but I will be in a better position to assess the timing issues when I see the design proposals later today.
2. The fact that each member of the CRUA committee had been warned on Friday night about INLA death threats has certainly destabilised the committee. There was little interest in discussing all the many actions in the package that are progressing well, including completion of the first phase of the road ramps work. The fact is that the road realignment is the only part of the project that requires agreement by both sides and the continued absence of direct contact between them will make this extremely difficult.
3. Both NIO and PSNI also came under pressure on specific issues including complaints about day-to-day operational policing and demands that NIO build a peace wall behind Hesketh. There was interest in NIO plans to introduce CCTV cameras at Alliance Avenue, until Colin Dunlop mentioned that it could take as much as 12 weeks to complete that contract. Until then, PSNI agreed to the continued deployment of static police points at the intersection.
4. I am meeting our landscape design consultants this morning and will press for their work to be completed quickly. If possible I will try to get these designs to the CRUA committee on Wednesday night and seek their early reaction. I will also show them to Ardoyne interests at the same time. However Ardoyne are likely to seek more time to study the designs. Other relevant interests, including Flax Housing Association, PSNI and the North and West Health Trust, also have an interest in the designs.

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