

286/96

FROM: J R FISHER
ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT
24 JANUARY 1997

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

- 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 - B
- MR STEELE - B
- MR BELL (O/R)
- MR BLACKWELL - B
- MR DANIELL - B
- MR LEACH - B
- MR SHANNON - B
- MR STEPHENS - B
- MR WATKINS - B
- MR WOOD (B&L) - B
- MR BEETON - B
- MR BROOKER - B
- MR HILL - B
- MRS BROWN - B
- MR CANAVAN - B
- MRS COLLINS - B
- MR LAVERY - B
- MR MACCABE - B
- MR PERRY - B
- DR POWER - B
- MR SMYTH - B
- MR WHITE - B
- MR PRIESTLY - B
- MISS BHARUCHA - B
- MISS DEVLIN - B
- MR DICKINSON, TALKS UNIT - B
- MR JAGELMAN - B
- MS MAPSTONE - B
- MRS SEAR - B
- MR WEBB - B
- HMA, DUBLIN - B
- MR LAMONT, RID - B



- ① ELBs - DENI sent 29/1
 - ② ACE - DENI sent 29/1
 ③ RIC - DAN I - no comment
 - ④ Sp. Olympics - DEN I - DENI dealing direct
 Supportive as are
 DOE
 ⑤ Estemés - DAN I
 No competing UK bids
 29/1
 Mrs H. Aulay
 For action please
 LD
 29/1

NOTE OF A DELEGATION MEETING HELD AT THE ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT ON 23 JANUARY 1997

A DELEGATION MEETING TOOK PLACE AT MARYFIELD ON 23 JANUARY 1997. THE BRITISH SIDE WAS REPRESENTED BY MR FISHER AND MRS HARPER. THE IRISH SIDE WAS REPRESENTED BY MR DONOGHUE, MR MAGNER, MR DOWLING, MR BOUGHTON AND MR HACKETT.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

SUMMARY

2. A LONG MEETING COVERING A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES (ADVICE AND GUIDANCE NEEDED ON MANY) BUT WITH OBVIOUS IRISH SIDE PREOCCUPATION WITH PARADES AND POLICING ISSUES, HIGHLIGHTING THE NEED FOR BRIEFING AT MARYFIELD BEFORE THE NORTH REPORT IS PUBLISHED.

MARYFIELD

3. BOTH SIDES REVIEWED AND AGREED VARIOUS DATES AND ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN REGARD TO BRIEFINGS AND JOINT ENTERTAINMENT WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT. THESE ARE RECORDED IN THE ANNEX TO THIS NOTE.

4. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO LOOK AT THE COST OF PRINTING INVITATION CARDS FOR ST PATRICK'S DAY RECEPTION ON 18 MARCH 1997 AND TO ROTATE THE CRESTS ON FUTURE INVITATIONS. [THE MEETING ENDED WITH A TOUR OF THE PRESENT RECEPTION AREA AND DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS TO IT SO AS TO BETTER ACCOMMODATE FUTURE RECEPTIONS.]

5. MR FISHER DREW ATTENTION TO THE AMOUNT OF OVERTIME BEING PAID TO DRIVERS AND DOMESTIC STAFF AT MARYFIELD OCCASSIONED BY ADDITIONAL DEMANDS MADE BY THE PRESENT TALKS PROCESS. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO REVIEW THE POSITION.

6. MRS HARPER REPORTED SHE HAD MADE CONTACT WITH THE NI ARTS COUNCIL TO ARRANGE FOR MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT TO SELECT UP TO THREE PAINTINGS FOR DISPLAY AT MARYFIELD.

DATE OF NEXT IGC

7. MR FISHER SAID THAT HE WAS NOT YET IN A POSITION TO OFFER ANY DATES BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT THREE DATES IN EARLY MARCH (THOSE PROVIDED BY PS/SIR JOHN WHEELER) WERE LESS SATISFACTORY. [PS/SECRETARY OF STATE ADVICE AWAITED.]

C O N F I D E N T I A L

- 2 -

PH/35176

132

C O N F I D E N T I A L

POLICE MATTERS

8. MR DONOGHUE THANKED THE BRITISH SIDE FOR ARRANGING THE BRIEFING ON 21 JANUARY WITH MR STEELE AND MRS COLLINS ON HMICS ANNUAL REPORT AND DR HAYES' REPORT ON POLICE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES. MR DONOGHUE ASKED WHETHER THE SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD BE MAKING KNOWN HIS VIEWS IN RELATION TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE USE OF PBRs (IN PARTICULAR THEIR USE TO PROTECT PROPERTY). THESE VIEWS COULD BE INFLUENTIAL AND HELP ALLAY PUBLIC CONCERN. THE VIEWS OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE WERE NOW KNOWN BUT HIS WAS NOT THE ONLY VOICE TO BE HEARD; IT WAS HOPED THAT THE MATTER WOULD NOT FALL TO BE REGARDED AS ONE FOR THE OPERATIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE. MR FISHER SAID THAT THE IRISH SIDE WOULD ALREADY HAVE SEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S STATEMENT AND BE AWARE THAT THE VIEWS OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE WERE BEING SOUGHT. THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OWN VIEW WOULD HAVE REGARD TO THE CHIEF CONSTABLE'S RESPONSE AND, NO DOUBT, THE VIEWS OF OTHERS. IN DISCUSSION, THE POINT WAS MADE (HELPFULLY BY MR BOUGHTON) THAT ACPO GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF PBRs WERE UNDER REVIEW AND GIVING FULL EFFECT TO THEM IN NI (IN RELATION TO THE PROTECTION OF PROPERTY) MIGHT SENSIBLY HAVE TO AWAIT THE REVIEW OUTCOME. MR DONOGHUE SAID THAT THE IRISH SIDE WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW IT WAS PROPOSED TO HANDLE HMIC'S REPORT MENTIONING ALSO THE RECOMMENDATION TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY RELATIONS IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECENT (GRAHAM ELLISON) SURVEY WHICH REVEALED SECTARIAN ATTITUDES IN THE RUC. [POB FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION/ADVICE, PLEASE.]

PARADES

9. IN RESPONSE TO MR DONOGHUE, MR FISHER SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WOULD CONTRADICT OR ADD TO WHAT THE IRISH SIDE HAD ALREADY BEEN TOLD AT THE MEETING HELD ON 21 JANUARY IN RELATION TO DR NORTH'S REPORT. MR DONOGHUE HOPED THE SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE A FULL RESPONSE TO THE REPORT WHEN IT WAS PUBLISHED, THEREBY ADDING CREDIBILITY TO THE EXERCISE. CLEAR ACTION WAS NEEDED AS WELL AS BEING SEEN TO BE DOING SOMETHING

C O N F I D E N T I A L

- 3 -

PH/35176

133

C O N F I D E N T I A L

POSITIVE FOR THE NATIONALIST COMMUNITY. IT WAS CRUCIAL FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO GIVE IMMEDIATE EFFECT TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REVIEW BEFORE THE MARCHING SEASON BEGAN. MR MAGNER ADDED THAT ANY ADVANCE INFORMATION WHICH COULD BE PROVIDED ON THE REPORT, EVEN HOURS BEFORE ISSUE, WOULD BE WELCOME. MR FISHER AGREED TO FOLLOW UP AND KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE IRISH SIDE.

10. NOTING RECENT REPORTED COMMENTS OF INTRANSIGENCE IN BOTH COMMUNITIES, MR FISHER SAID THAT WHATEVER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NORTH REPORT OR POSSIBLE EFFECT GIVEN TO THEM, IT WAS AN AGREED VIEW ON THE GROUND WHICH WOULD CONTRIBUTE MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE TO OVERCOMING PRESENT DIFFICULTIES. PRESENT STATEMENTS (ALBEIT FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION) DID NOT SEEM TO SHOW THE FLEXIBILITY THAT WOULD BE NEEDED. AGREEING, MR DONOGHUE SAID THAT IT WAS DIALOGUE THAT WAS IMPORTANT. NOTING THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD MET A DELEGATION OF THE GARVAGHY ROAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, MR DONOGHUE ALSO SAID THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE NEEDED TO CONTINUE TO BE SEEN TO ENCOURAGE ALL THOSE CONCERNED TO MEET, AND TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES INVOLVED.

PARACHUTE REGIMENT

11. MR DOWLING SAID THERE WERE GROWING CONCERNS ABOUT THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT BEING DEPLOYED IN EAST TYRONE. MR FISHER SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THESE CONCERNS AND THOSE OF THE IRISH SIDE AND WAS AWAITING ADVICE FOLLOWING EARLIER IRISH SIDE REPRESENTATIONS BUT THAT THE REGIMENT WAS ALREADY DEPLOYED IN ARMAGH WITHOUT LOCAL DIFFICULTY HAVING ARISEN, OR COMPLAINTS OF MISCONDUCT. HE UNDERSTOOD WHY THERE SHOULD BE THE DEPTH OF FEELING THERE WAS IN AREAS SUCH AS COALISLAND BUT THE REGIMENT (ALTHOUGH HIGHLY MOTIVATED) WAS TRAINED AND BRIEFED ON LOCAL SENSITIVITIES AHEAD OF (PREVIOUSLY SUCCESSFUL) TOURS. MR DONOGHUE BELIEVED THAT THIS WAS A BAD TIME TO BE SENDING THE REGIMENT TO EAST TYRONE AND THAT DOING SO FOOLISHLY PRESENTED ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THAT NATIONALIST OPINION WAS BEING DISREGARDED. IT WAS PROVOCATIVE AND INSENSITIVE.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

- 4 -

PH/35176

134

C O N F I D E N T I A L

12. MR DONOGHUE BELIEVED THAT A BATTALION OF THE REGIMENT WOULD ARRIVE IN JUNE WITH ANOTHER LATER. MR FISHER SAID THAT SUCH DEPLOYMENTS WERE MATTERS FOR THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE BUT IF THE CONCERN WAS THAT ALL THREE BATTALIONS OF THE REGIMENT WERE TO BE SERVING IN THE PROVINCE AT THE SAME TIME, THIS MIGHT NOT OCCUR. HOWEVER, SUCH FURTHER INFORMATION AS COULD BE PROVIDED WOULD BE PASSED TO THE IRISH SIDE.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

13. BRITISH SIDE INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO TWO QUESTIONS TABLED BY MR ROBERT MCCARTNEY AFFECTING MARYFIELD AND IRISH SIDE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE PRESENT TALKS PROCESS WERE DISCUSSED. MR DONOGHUE RESENTED THE BRITISH SIDE ANSWERING QUESTIONS WHICH PROVIDED INFORMATION ON PAYMENTS MADE BY THE IRISH GOVERNMENT. MR FISHER REFERRED TO THIS KIND OF INFORMATION HAVING PREVIOUSLY BEEN PROVIDED IN RELATION TO THE RUNNING COSTS AT MARYFIELD. [IRISH SIDE HAVE SINCE EXPRESSED THEMSELVES CONTENT.]

EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARDS

14. MR DONOGHUE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WAS MEETING PARTY LEADERS TO DISCUSS THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARDS, AND ASKED FOR INFORMATION ON THE LATEST POSITION. MR FISHER SAID VIEWS RECEIVED ON THE PROPOSAL WERE BEING CONSIDERED AND CERTAIN AMENDMENTS MADE TO THE PROPOSED ORDER IN COUNCIL. HOWEVER, HIS UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WERE COMMITTED TO REDUCING THE NUMBER OF BOARDS. HE HAD NO INFORMATION AS TO WHEN THE ORDER WOULD BE LAID BUT IT WAS LIKELY THAT A STATEMENT WOULD BE MADE, PERHAPS IN FEBRUARY. [SINCE OVERTAKEN BY REPORTED STATEMENTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT ARE POSTPONING A DECISION; CENTRAL SECRETARIAT FURTHER ADVICE, PLEASE.]

ACE SCHEME

15. MR DONOGHUE SAID HE WAS AWARE OF MEETINGS HAVING TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN THE SDLP AND BARONESS DENTON AND SOUGHT FURTHER INFORMATION

C O N F I D E N T I A L

- 5 -

PH/35176

135

C O N F I D E N T I A L

ON PRESENT THINKING. MR FISHER SAID HE HAD NOTHING AT PRESENT TO
ALSO TO WHAT THE IRISH SIDE HAD BEEN TOLD ON THIS MATTER AT EARLIER
BRIEFINGS BUT WOULD INVESTIGATE [CENTRAL SECRETARIAT, ADVICE PLEASE.]

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

16. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE IRISH SIDE WERE OWED MATERIAL FOLLOWING
ON A MEETING HELD WITH CENTRAL SECRETARIAT ON PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS
LAST NOVEMBER. [CENTRAL SECRETARIAT, TO NOTE.]

17. IN RESPONSE TO MR DOWLING, MR FISHER SAID THAT HE WOULD MAKE
ENQUIRIES WITH REGARD TO THE APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT
COMMISSIONER FOR THE HOLDING CENTRES. [SPOB, ADVICE PLEASE ON WHEN
THESE APPOINTMENTS ARE TO BE ANNOUNCED.]

TAOISEACH'S SPEECH IN DAIL

18. MR DONOGHUE PASSED TO THE BRITISH SIDE A COPY (NOW
CIRCULATED) OF THE TAOISEACH'S RECENT STATEMENTS IN THE DAIL (AND
SUPPLEMENTARIES) ON POLITICAL PROGRESS.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

19. MR FISHER CONFIRMED THAT CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO THE
IRISH SIDE REQUEST THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHOULD WRITE TO THE
TANAISTE LENDING SUPPORT TO THE IRISH GOVERNMENT'S BID TO HOST THE
SPECIAL OLYMPICS, AND ACCOUNT TAKEN OF POTENTIAL ECONOMIC
ADVANTAGES. COMPARISONS WERE DRAWN WITH THE IRISH BID TO HOST THE
RYDER CUP. MR DONOGHUE SAID THAT THE URGENCY OF THE MATTER LAY IN
THE BOARD OF THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS MEETING IN TORONTO NEXT WEEK.
[CENTRAL SECRETARIAT AND DENI, ADVICE PLEASE.]

POLITICAL SEMINAR IN SOUTH AFRICA

20. BOTH SIDES CONFIRMED THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE PARTICIPATING IN
THIS SEMINAR IN LATE FEBRUARY. IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT MOST, IF NOT
ALL, THE MAIN POLITICAL PARTIES INTENDED DOING SO.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

- 6 -

PH/35176

136

DRUGS

21. MR FISHER SAID THAT A REPORT BY THE NI AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE ON ILLICIT DRUG USE IN NI WAS TO BE PUBLISHED THAT DAY AND, FOLLOWING ON THE MEETING HELD THE PREVIOUS WEEK ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE MATTERS AND DRUGS ISSUES. (COPY NOW PASSED TO THE IRISH SIDE.)

PRESIDENT ROBINSON'S VISITS TO NORTHERN IRELAND

22. MR DONOGHUE ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY INFORMATION ABOUT REPORTS THAT MR TRIMBLE WAS DUE TO MEET FCO OFFICIALS IN CONNECTION WITH PRESIDENT ROBINSON'S VISITS TO NI. MR DONOGHUE STRESSED THAT PROTOCOL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE VISITS WERE ALWAYS FOLLOWED. MR FISHER UNDERTOOK TO MAKE ENQUIRIES. [IPL, ADVICE PLEASE.]

OTHER COMPLAINTS

23. MR DOWLING EXPRESSED IRISH SIDE DISAPPOINTMENT THAT ALTHOUGH THEY HAD ASKED ON 8 JANUARY FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE VETERINARY INVESTIGATION CENTRE IN OMAGH, THEY HAD RECEIVED MUCH LATER, AND DAYS AFTER ITS ISSUE, A COPY OF A DANI PRESS RELEASE DATED 17 JANUARY. MR FISHER APOLOGISED FOR THE DELAY THERE HAD BEEN. [CENTRAL SECRETARIAT, ANY FURTHER EXPLANATION OF DELAY WELCOME, PLEASE].

24. MR DOWLING ASKED ABOUT AN OUTSTANDING IRISH SIDE ENQUIRY CONCERNING A HELICOPTER HAVING HIT A HOUSE IN SHANTALLOW. MR FISHER UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS MATTER HAD BEEN RESOLVED WITH THE NIHE OCCUPANT. IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER A WHEEL OF THE HELICOPTER HAD ACCIDENTALLY HIT THE ROOF OF THE HOUSE OR THE DOWNDRAUGHT OF ROTOR BLADES HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE. A FORMAL WRITTEN RESPONSE WOULD BE MADE.

FISHERIES

25. MR FISHER RAISED THE HAGUE PREFERENCE AND EXPLAINED WHAT THE BRITISH SIDE OF THE SECRETARIAT KNEW ABOUT HOW THE MECHANISM WORKED. BOTH THE UK AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND HELD HAGUE PREFERENCES BUT THAT OF THE REPUBLIC OUTWEIGHED THE UNITED KINGDOM'S. THE NET IMPACT TO THE NI FISHERIES FLEET WAS A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN AVAILABILITY OF FISH, OVERCOME IN PART BY QUOTA SWAPS BETWEEN THE UK AND IRELAND. BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH DOWN FISHERIES WERE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE AND A POTENTIAL POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC DIMENSION EXISTED SUGGESTING A CO-OPERATIVE APPROACH BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS WITH A VIEW TO NEGOTIATING CHANGES TO THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS. IRISH SIDE INTEREST WAS CLEARLY ENGAGED ON THE SUBJECT AND IT WAS AGREED THAT WHEN FURTHER FACTS WERE AVAILABLE, THE MATTER WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT MARYFIELD. (THE IRISH SIDE HAVE SINCE ASKED FOR MORE INFORMATION; A LINE TO TAKE HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM DANI).

*Not a gd
KC subject
(For 2 Gouts)*

[SIGNED]

J R FISHER
MARYFIELD (01232) 427532

C O N F I D E N T I A L

ANNEX

BRIEFINGS

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|
| 1 | HOUSING | 4.00 PM,
4 FEBRUARY |
| 2 | HEALTH MATTERS | TO BE ARRANGED |
| 3 | FAIR EMPLOYMENT | TO BE ARRANGED
LATER IN THE
YEAR. |

FUNCTIONS HOSTED BY THE IRISH SIDE

SECRETARY OF STATE AND LADY MAYHEW	25 MARCH (DINNER)
CHURCH OF IRELAND (REV LEWIS & OTHERS)	6 FEBRUARY
METHODIST CHURCH (REV KENNETH BEST & OTHERS)	13 FEBRUARY
ARCHBISHOP EAMES	TO BE ARRANGED
ANDREW HUNTER, CHAIRMAN OF NI BACKBENCH COMMITTEE	TO BE ARRANGED

JOINT FUNCTIONS

CADOGAN GROUP	30 JANUARY
ST PATRICK'S DAY RECEPTION	18 MARCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L

- 9 -

PH/35176

139