

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

FROM: RUTH OSBORNE
ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT
6 MARCH 1997

ASST DB 147/3.
SEC - 7 MAR 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
- 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
- MR HILL
- MRS BROWN
- MR BUCHANAN
- MR CANAVAN
- MRS COLLINS
- MR LAVERY
- MR MACCABE
- MR PERRY
- DR POWER
- MR SMYTH
- MR WHITE
- MR PRIESTLY
- MISS BHARUCHA
- MISS DEVLIN
- MS MAPSTONE
- HMA, DUBLIN
- MR LAMONT, RID

Handwritten notes:
 LD7/3
 I would like to see you next on
 P10 when the terms proposed
 in the last delegation were
 where do we stand on
 them?

Handwritten initials:
 JS
 7/3



NOTE OF A DELEGATION MEETING HELD AT THE ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT ON
27 FEBRUARY 1997

A DELEGATION MEETING TOOK PLACE AT MARYFIELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 1997.
THE BRITISH SIDE WAS REPRESENTED BY MR BELL, MRS OSBORNE, MRS HARPER
AND MISS BROWN. THE IRISH SIDE WAS REPRESENTED BY MR DONOGHUE,
MR MAGNER, MR DOWLING, AND MR HACKETT. WE APOLOGISE FOR THE LATE
CIRCULATION OF THIS NOTE.

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SUMMARY

2. A LENGTHY BUSINESS-LIKE MEETING, WITH THE IRISH SIDE CLEARLY DETERMINED TO AVOID ANY REPETITION OF THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S PYROTECHNICS.

IGC RESCHEDULED FOR 12 MARCH IN DUBLIN

3. REFERRING TO EARLIER DISCUSSIONS, MR DONOGHUE INDICATED THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S ARRIVAL AT APPROXIMATELY 1.30 PM AT IVEAGH HOUSE ON 12 MARCH FOR AN IGC WOULD BE SUITABLE TO THE IRISH SIDE. IT WAS THEREFORE NOTED THAT THE NEXT IGC HAD BEEN REARRANGED FOR THE AFTERNOON OF 12 MARCH, COMMENCING WITH LUNCH IN DUBLIN. THE IRISH SIDE ALSO NOTED THAT SIR JOHN WHEELER WAS UNLIKELY TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND, OWING TO PARLIAMENTARY COMMITMENTS (SINCE CONFIRMED).

4. MR BELL REPORTED THAT BARONESS DENTON HAD ATTENDED A MEETING IN LONDON THAT WEEK BETWEEN THE UK FISHERIES MINISTERS AND THE INDUSTRY. THE BRITISH SIDE CONSIDERS THAT THE CURRENT OPERATION OF THE HAGUE PREFERENCE WAS WORKING TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF NORTHERN IRELAND AND TO RELATIONS BETWEEN BOTH PARTS OF IRELAND IN WAYS THAT WERE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT, AND WHICH COULD NOT BE RESOLVED BY A READJUSTMENT OF QUOTAS WITHIN THE UK. THE MINISTER MIGHT THEREFORE RAISE THE MATTER AT THE NEXT IGC, WITH THE INTENTION OF DISCUSSING IN MORE DETAIL LATER. MR BELL HOPED TO OFFER THE IRISH A BRIEFING TO EXPLAIN THEIR THINKING IN MORE DETAIL SOON. (THE HAGUE PREFERENCE WILL NOW FEATURE ON THE IGC AGENDA AS A TAKE NOTE ITEM).

TAOISEACH'S VISIT: 28 FEBRUARY

5. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE TAOISEACH WOULD BE VISITING NI THE FOLLOWING DAY. MR DONOGHUE COMMENTED THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT MISS STEELE HAD MET EARLIER IN THE WEEK WITH HER COUNTERPART IN DUBLIN, WHO WAS PLEASED WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS IN HAND. REFERRING TO A FAX ON FLIGHT DETAILS THE IRISH HAD HANDED OVER EARLIER THAT AFTERNOON, MRS OSBORNE INQUIRED WHETHER THE IRISH AIR CORPS HAD BEEN LIAISING

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DIRECTLY WITH THE RAF, AS WAS USUAL. MR HACKETT THOUGHT THAT THEY HAD BUT UNDERTOOK TO CHECK. (IN THE EVENT, THE VISIT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS).

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

6. THE SUGGESTED DATES BY THE BRITISH SIDE TO HOLD A MEETING WITH MR STEELE AND MR WATKINS ON PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS, TO INCLUDE THE IMPLICATIONS OF SIR LEN PEACH'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE IRISH NOMINATION TO THE ICPC WAS DISCUSSED. MR BELL COMMENTED THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR THE MEETING TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE FORTHCOMING IGC. THE IRISH SIDE THEREFORE AGREED TO ACCEPT THE OFFERED DATE OF 3 MARCH. (THE MEETING TOOK PLACE AT 2 PM ON THAT AFTERNOON; A NOTE WILL BE CIRCULATED SHORTLY).

7. MR DOWLING ALSO SAID THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE IRISH SIDE TO HAVE THE USUAL MEETING ON THE SIX-MONTHLY LIST AHEAD OF THE IGC, AS WELL. (IRISH SIDE SINCE INFORMED THAT THE NEXT SIX-MONTHLY LIST WAS NOT YET FINALISED.)

PARADES

8. MR DONOGHUE REPORTED THAT THE IRISH SIDE SHOULD NOT BE COMMENTING ON THE DRAFT PUBLIC ORDER (NI) ORDER PUBLISHED FOR CONSULTATION EARLIER THAT WEEK. THE IRISH HAD NO PROBLEM WITH WHAT WAS PROPOSED, AND THE VIEWS ON THE ISSUE OF PARADES REMAINED AS SET OUT IN THEIR SUBMISSION TO DR NORTH. MR BELL COULD NOT RESIST POINTING OUT TO AN INCREDULOUS IRISH SIDE THAT, AS THEY HAD NOT PROVIDED THE BRITISH SIDE WITH A COPY OF THEIR SUBMISSION TO WHAT HAD BEEN AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW, HE WAS THEREFORE UNCLEAR AS TO WHAT THEIR VIEWS ON THESE SUBJECTS WERE. HE ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REAFFIRM THAT THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE PROPOSED PARADES COMMISSION HAD NOT BEEN FINALISED.

9. MR BELL ALSO DREW ATTENTION TO REPORTS OF AN IMPENDING BELFAST TELEGRAPH ARTICLE REPORTING THAT THERE WAS SOON TO BE AN IGC WHICH WOULD DEAL MAINLY WITH THE ISSUE OF PARADES. THE BRITISH

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SIDE, ON HIS ADVICE, WERE POINTING OUT THAT THE AGENDA OF IGCs REMAINED CONFIDENTIAL, BUT THERE WAS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE NEXT IGC (FOR WHICH NO DATE HAD THEN BEEN FIXED) WOULD NOT HAVE THE USUAL WIDE RANGING AGENDA, IN WHICH THE MARCHING SEASON WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY FEATURE. HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE IN NO ONE'S INTEREST TO PLAY UP SUCH A SENSITIVE ISSUE AND IT WAS NO LESS IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST, NOT LEAST ON THE PART OF THE IRISH SIDE, NOT TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT 'INSTRUCTIONS' WERE COMING FROM THE IRISH SIDE OF THE SECRETARIAT. IN RESPONSE, MR DONOGHUE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT THE TANAISTE WOULD BE ASKED FOR HIS VIEWS ON THE ISSUE OF MARCHES, AND WOULD BE OBLIGED TO RESPOND ON SUCH AN IMPORTANT ISSUE OF CONCERN TO THE IRISH SIDE. HOWEVER, HE EMPHASISED, IT WAS NOT THE IRISH SIDE WHO PLAYED UP THE ROLE OF MARYFIELD, BUT RATHER UNIONISTS.

REPLACEMENT OF THE PERMANENT ROAD CLOSURE IN HIGH STREET, BESSBROOK WITH GATE.

10. MR BELL REPORTED THAT WORK HAD COMMENCED THAT DAY TO REPLACE THE FIXED UCB BARRIER INSTALLED LAST OCTOBER IN HIGH STREET, BESSBROOK, WITH A GATE. MR SEAMUS MALLON MP HAD BEEN GIVEN PRIOR NOTICE, AND IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT HE WAS RELAXED ABOUT THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS. MR DONOGHUE ASKED FOR MORE DETAIL ON WHAT THE WORK ENTAILED. (IRISH SIDE WERE PROVIDED WITH A NOTE THE FOLLOWING DAY.)

PQS TABLED BY MR ROBERT MCCARTNEY ON THE ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT

11. REFERRING TO EARLIER DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SECRETARIES FOLLOWING THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S MEETING, MR DONOGHUE EXPRESSED THE IRISH SIDE'S APPRECIATION OF HAVING RECEIVED COPIES OF THE HANSARD EXTRACTS OF ALL THOSE PQS RECEIVED BY THE BRITISH SIDE THIS YEAR CONCERNING MARYFIELD. THE IRISH SIDE ALSO NOTED THAT TWO MORE PQS FROM MR MCCARTNEY MP HAD BEEN TABLED THAT WEEK, AND THE IRISH SIDE WERE MOST GRATEFUL FOR SIGHT OF THESE ALSO. THE IRISH SIDE REMAINED OF THE VIEW THAT SUCH QUESTIONS WERE "MISCHIEF-MAKING" AND IT WAS THEREFORE HOPED THAT ONLY THE MINIMUM OF INFORMATION WOULD BE

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PROVIDED. IN RESPONSE, MR BELL NOTED THE IRISH SIDE'S APPRECIATION. HE REMINDED THE IRISH SIDE THAT WHILST THE BRITISH SIDE HAD A SHARED INTEREST IN NOT PROVIDING MATERIAL THAT 'HOSTILE' POLITICIANS COULD USE AGAINST THE SECRETARIAT, NEVERTHELESS THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF CIVIL SERVANTS UNDER THE DIRECTION AND CONTROL OF HMG, LEFT MINISTERS WITH NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ANSWER STRAIGHT-FORWARDLY THE QUESTIONS ASKED, SUBJECT TO CONSTRAINTS OF COST AND NATIONAL SECURITY. THE NIO'S ANSWERS SOUGHT TO DO THIS IN THE POTENTIALLY LEAST DAMAGING WAY.

FUNDAMENTAL REVIEW ON POLICING

12. REFERRING TO THE IRISH SIDE'S NOTE HANDED OVER THE PREVIOUS DAY, MR DOWLING INQUIRED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF RECEIVING A COPY OF THE FULL REPORT ON THE FUNDAMENTAL REVIEW ON POLICING. MR BELL EXPLAINED THAT OWNERSHIP OF THE REPORT LAY WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE AND THE IRISH SIDE REQUEST WAS THEREFORE BEING PURSUED WITH THE POLICE. (IRISH SIDE SINCE PROVIDED WITH A FORMAL RESPONSE INDICATING THAT THE CHIEF CONSTABLE WILL NOT PROVIDE A FULL COPY OF THE REPORT.)

"BLOODY SUNDAY"

13. REFERRING TO THE IRISH SIDE NOTE HANDED OVER THE PREVIOUS DAY, MR DOWLING ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF RECEIVING A COMPLETE LIST OF WITNESS STATEMENTS TAKEN BY THE NI CIVIL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION/NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES AND RECEIVED BY THE WIDGERY TRIBUNAL. MR BELL POINTED OUT (AS THE IRISH SIDE HAD ALREADY BEEN INFORMED DURING THAT WEEK) THAT THE DOCUMENTS COULD BE OBTAINED FROM THE PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE IN BALMORAL AVENUE, BELFAST. (THE IRISH SIDE TOOK NOTE WITHOUT COMMENT. HOWEVER THEY HAVE SINCE PRESSED HARD FOR THE BRITISH SIDE TO PROVIDE THE DOCUMENTS. SEE MR BELL'S SEPARATE NOTES OF 5 AND 6 MARCH, NOT TO ALL.)

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14. IN RESPONSE TO IRISH SIDE'S EARLIER COMPLAINTS THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED NO ADVANCE NOTICE OF A DOCUMENT ON "BLOODY SUNDAY" ALLEGEDLY HANDED OVER BY HMA TO THE TAOISEACH'S OFFICE, MR BELL TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONFIRM THAT THE IRISH TIMES REPORT OF A PAPER BEING HANDED OVER BY HMA TO THE TAOISEACH AT A MEETING ON 20 FEBRUARY WAS INACCURATE. NO SUCH NOTE WAS HANDED OVER. HOWEVER, THE IRISH SIDE MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN WHAT HMA SAID. MR BELL THEN READ TO THE IRISH SIDE HMA'S OWN WORDS (AS RECORDED IN HER NOTE OF 21 FEBRUARY TO MRS SEAR) AS FOLLOWS:-

- (I) "WE HAD SAID WE WILL EXAMINE ANY EVIDENCE EXTREMELY CAREFULLY;
- (II) WE HAVE ALREADY SAID WE REGARD THE EVENTS AS A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY WHICH SHOULD NEVER HAVE OCCURRED. THE PRIME MINISTER HAD SAID VICTIMS SHOULD BE REGARDED AS INNOCENT AND THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD SAID, AFTER HIS MEETING WITH RELATIVES LAST WEEK, THAT "WE REGRETTED THE EVENTS OF THAT DREADFUL DAY HAD EVER OCCURRED";
- (III) WE HAVE NOT PREJUDGED THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED. IN HIS WEEKEND INTERVIEW THE SECRETARY OF STATE MADE PLAIN WE HAVE NOT HAD A CHANCE TO SCRUTINISE IT. NO OPTIONS HAVE BEEN RULED OUT. IF THERE IS NEW EVIDENCE APPROPRIATE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN."

THE IRISH SIDE TOOK NOTE, WITHOUT COMMENT.

DISCRIMINATION CASE AGAINST NICS STAFF IN DANI

15. MR DONOGHUE FURTHER INQUIRED ABOUT THE POSITION ON THE FAIR EMPLOYMENT CASE TAKEN AGAINST THE MEMBER OF BARONESS DENTON'S STAFF IN DANI. MR BELL, KEEPING A STRAIGHT BAT, SAID HE HAD BEEN ADVISED THAT IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS NICS PERSONNEL MATTERS WITH THE IRISH SIDE. MR DONOGHUE WAS NOT CONVINCED. (HE FOLLOWED UP, THOUGH

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NOT HARD, TETE A TETE. THE BRITISH SIDE HAS SUBSEQUENTLY GIVEN THE IRISH SIDE A NOTE AGREED WITH DANI.)

JOHN ROWE'S REPORT ON THE OPERATION OF THE BPF

16. MR BELL COMMENTED THAT THE BRITISH SIDE UNDERSTOOD THAT MR ROWE HAD BEEN IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE IRISH SIDE TO EXPLAIN THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO COME TO NI TO DISCUSS IRISH SIDE VIEWS, AND TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS. MR DONOGHUE CONFIRMED THAT THIS WAS THE CASE. THE IRISH SIDE RECOGNISED MR ROWE'S LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS AND ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE TO EITHER SEND MR ROWE OVER THE WEEKEND THE IRISH SIDE'S WRITTEN COMMENTS, OR TO DISCUSS THEM OVER THE TELEPHONE. (BRITISH SIDE OF THE SECRETARIAT UNDERSTAND THAT MR ROWE RECEIVED OVER THE WEEKEND IRISH WRITTEN OBSERVATIONS.)

LIAISON GROUP

17. MR BELL SAID THAT THE BRITISH SIDE HOPED THAT THE LIAISON GROUP WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET AGAIN, AT SOMETIME AFTER THE LAST DAY OF TALKS (ON 5 MARCH). MR DONOGHUE AGREED. (NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE, AND CONTINUE....)

FORUM

18. REFERRING TO MR DONOGHUE'S COMMENTS AT THE PREVIOUS DELEGATION MEETING, MR BELL CLARIFIED THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO START THE PROCESS WINDING UNTIL AFTER THE TALKS HAD ENDED. THE IRISH SIDE SHOULD NOT BECOME HUNG UP OVER THE LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES FOR ACHIEVING THIS. THE POINT TO HOLD ON TO WAS THAT THE FORUM WOULD NOT SURVIVE THE END OF THE CURRENT PARLIAMENT.

NORTHERN IRELAND GRAND COMMITTEE

19. MR BELL REPORTED THAT THE LORD PRESIDENT WOULD BE ANNOUNCING IN THE HOUSE THAT DAY THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD BE WRITING TO THE NI PARTY LEADERS AND OPPOSITION SPOKESPERSONS ABOUT HMG'S

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INTENTIONS TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE NIGC. MR BELL POINTED OUT THAT, AS ALREADY INDICATED TO THE IRISH SIDE, THE AIM OF THE CHANGES WAS TO ENHANCE THE ACCESSIBILITY OF DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND ACCESS TO MINISTERS FOR NI MPs, AND TO BRING THE COMMITTEE MORE INTO LINE WITH THE SCOTTISH AND WELSH GRAND COMMITTEES. THESE CHANGES WERE JUSTIFIED ON THEIR MERITS, AND WHOLLY WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO WHATEVER MIGHT EMERGE FROM THE TALKS PROCESS. STRENUOUS EFFORTS HAD BEEN MADE TO ARRANGE MEETINGS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND MR EDDIE MCGRADY MP, NOT LEAST TO REASSURE THE SDLP THAT THERE IS NO FOUNDATION TO THEIR PERCEPTION THAT A NEW COMMITTEE WAS PROPOSED. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, MR MCGRADY'S OFFICE HAD INDICATED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL 10 MARCH. FURTHER DETAILS, HE ADDED, SHOULD BE AVAILABLE LATER THAT DAY OR EARLY THE FOLLOWING DAY. (MR BELL SINCE HANDED THE (RELAXED) IRISH SIDE A NOTE (ON 28 FEBRUARY) ON THE BASIS OF MATERIAL PROVIDED BY CPL, TOGETHER WITH AN OFFER - DECLINED - OF A MORE DETAILED BRIEFING.)

LOYALIST CEASEFIRE

20. MR BELL COMMENTED THAT DESPITE BOTH SIDE'S CONTINUED GLOOMY ASSESSMENTS OF THE LEVEL OF THE TERRORIST THREAT, THE BRITISH SIDE WERE MODESTLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THE LOYALIST CEASEFIRE WOULD CONTINUE TO HOLD, THOUGH THERE COULD BE 'ROGUE EPISODES' BY INDIVIDUAL LOYALISTS. THE BRITISH SIDE ATTRIBUTED THIS IN PART TO THE SUCCESSES OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SECURITY FORCES BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE BORDER AGAINST PIRA (CONGRATULATIONS, THEREFORE, TO THE GARDA) AND, IT WAS HOPED, DUE TO THE GOOD SENSE OF THOSE INVOLVED. THE BRITISH SIDE ALSO SUSPECTED THAT THE PROPOSED INVITATION TO THE LOYALIST PARTIES TO THE US PRESIDENT'S ST PATRICK'S DAY RECEPTION WAS, INTER ALIA, ALSO HELPFUL IN THIS CONTEXT. IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT BOTH SETS OF SECURITY FORCES MAINTAINED THEIR HIGH STANDARDS OF EFFECTIVENESS IN KEEPING, TO A DEGREE, PIRA ACTIVITIES IN ABEYANCE (AND DETERRING LOYALISTS FROM RESUMPTION); MR DONOGHUE SAID "POINT TAKEN".

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ST PATRICK'S DAY RECEPTION: 18 MARCH

21. IT WAS NOTED THAT INVITATIONS SHOULD BE READY FOR ISSUE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS (SINCE ISSUED).

BRIEFING/FUNCTIONS

22. A LIST OF CONFIRMED/TO BE CONFIRMED BRIEFINGS/FUNCTIONS AT MARYFIELD ARE ATTACHED AT ANNEX B.

HEALTH MATTERS

23. MR DONOGHUE FURTHER INQUIRED ABOUT A DATE FOR THE REQUESTED BRIEFING. MRS OSBORNE INDICATED THAT A BRIEFING SHOULD BE ARRANGED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS BUT THE BRITISH SIDE HAD NO SPECIFIC DATE AS YET TO OFFER.

FAIR EMPLOYMENT

24. MR DOWLING FURTHER INQUIRED ABOUT A BRIEFING ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT. THE IRISH SIDE UNDERSTOOD THAT SACHR'S REPORT WAS DUE TO BE FINALISED SOON. MR DOWLING EMPHASISED THAT THE IRISH SIDE WERE KEENLY INTERESTED IN THE ISSUE AND WISHED TO KNOW WHAT HMG'S VIEWS WERE AND WHAT CHANGES WOULD BE MADE AS A RESULT OF SACHR'S RECOMMENDATIONS. IN RESPONSE, MR BELL SAID THAT THE BRITISH SIDE DID NOT KNOW AT THIS STAGE WHAT SACHR'S RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE AND, IN ANY EVENT, HMG'S VIEWS WOULD ONLY BE DEFINITELY FORMULATED IN RESPONSE TO SACHR'S RECOMMENDATION ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT, WHICH WAS THE PRIMARY REASON IT COMMISSIONED SACHR TO CARRY OUT A MAJOR AND WIDE-RANGING REVIEW IN THE FIRST PLACE! GIVEN THAT SACHR'S REPORT WAS UNLIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE BEFORE MAY (AT THE EARLIEST) HMG WAS UNLIKELY TO REACH ANY DECISIONS ON CHANGE UNTIL AFTER THE FORTHCOMING GENERAL ELECTION. AN EARLY BRIEFING AT THIS STAGE WOULD THEREFORE BE OF LITTLE VALUE. MR DONOGHUE RECOGNISED THE BENEFITS OF PUTTING THE REQUESTED BRIEFING ON HOLD FOR THE TIME-BEING.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT-RELATED MATTERS

25. IN REFERRING TO THE VARIOUS LOCAL GOVERNMENT-RELATED ISSUES RAISED AT THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S DELEGATION MEETING, MR DONOGHUE WONDERED WHETHER IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE IRISH SIDE TO RECEIVE A GENERAL BRIEFING ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT. IN REASSURING THE IRISH SIDE THAT WORK WAS IN HAND ON THE IRISH SIDE QUERIES, MR BELL SAID THE BRITISH SIDE UNDERSTOOD THAT MR SPENCE MAY HAVE BEEN MISQUOTED IN THE PRESS ABOUT URBAN REGENERATION POWERS BEING GIVEN BACK TO DISTRICT COUNCILS. INQUIRIES WERE ALSO BEING MADE ABOUT PROVIDING THE IRISH SIDE WITH A COPY OF ANY CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES. (FURTHER URGENT ADVICE, PLEASE, FROM CENTRAL SECRETARIAT/DOE(NI. THE IRISH SIDE HAVE SINCE SUGGESTED THAT AN INVITATION TO MR SPENCE (AND A FRIEND) TO AN EARLY LUNCH MIGHT BE THE BEST WAY OF COMBINING AN ANSWER WITH PLEASURE....).

[SIGNED]

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MARYFIELD (01232) 427532

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ANNEX A

AGENDA FOR THE ANGLO-IRISH INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE
DUBLIN ON 12 MARCH 1997

- 12.50 SECRETARY OF STATE AND PARTY ARRIVE DUBLIN AIRPORT
13.30 ARRIVE AT IVEAGH HOUSE, AND PHOTOCALL
13.35 LUNCH AND TETE-A-TETE
14.45 RESTRICTED SECURITY SESSION
15.15 PLENARY
1. POLITICAL MATTERS (RESTRICTED NUMBERS)
 2. CONFIDENCE ISSUES
 - (A) RESPONSE OF SECURITY FORCES TO CURRENT SITUATION
 - (B) PARADES
 - (C) POLICING ISSUES
 - (D) PRISON ISSUES
 - (E) BLOODY SUNDAY
 3. PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS
 4. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES
 - (A) TRADE AND TOURISM
 - (B) FUTURE CONFERENCE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TOPICS
 5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
- 17.15 PRESS CONFERENCES (SECRETARY OF STATE TO LEAD)
17.45 DEPARTURE OF SECRETARY OF STATE AND PARTY FOR AIRPORT

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ANNEX B

BRIEFINGS

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | HEALTH MATTERS | TO BE ARRANGED |
| 2 | FAIR EMPLOYMENT | TO BE ARRANGED
LATER IN THE YEAR. |

FUNCTIONS HOSTED BY IRISH SIDE

SECRETARY OF STATE AND LADY MAYHEW	25 MARCH (DINNER)
MICHAEL ANCRAM	TO BE ARRANGED
BARONESS DENTON	TO BE ARRANGED
CHURCH OF IRELAND (REV LEWIS & OTHERS)	TO BE ARRANGED
ARCHBISHOP EAMES	TO BE ARRANGED
DR MOWLEM	TO BE ARRANGED (DINNER OR LUNCH)
NI PERMANENT SECRETARIES (NEW ROUND)	TO BE ARRANGED
DAVID HEWITT	TO BE ARRANGED

FUNCTIONS CO-HOSTED BY BOTH SECRETARIES

ST PATRICK'S DAY RECEPTION	18 MARCH
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