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FROM: RUTH OSBORNE  
ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT  
28 MARCH 1997

08 2/4

423/97

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

*Mrs McAuley 8/4  
Thank*

*Mrs Davlin  
IPL (Jeff Gibbons) has already contacted  
Simon McDonald (BE, w' term) to  
find out exactly what was said. Jeff will take it fwd. with Will  
& Simon & will respond to Ruth Osborne, copy to do us.  
Mrs McAuley  
Case - you copy to  
Anita 6503  
Jackie 6506  
3/14/97. M*

*cc Mrs [redacted]  
Re para 13,  
to pursue &  
fwd, sent  
with  
attention  
bulet for*

*6543  
Jeff Gibbons to phone back.*

- PS/PUS (B&L) - B
- PS/SIR DAVID FELL - B
- MR CARVILL
- MR ELLIOTT
- MR LOUGHRAN
- MR SEMPLE
- LL
- NCE
- MAS
- ELE - B
- CKWELL - B
- ELL - B
- CH - B
- NON - B
- HENS - B
- INS - B
- (B&L) - B
- ON - B
- KER - B
- IN 2/4
- NAN
- AN
- 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



NOTE OF A DELEGATION MEETING HELD AT THE ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT ON 25 MARCH 1997

A DELEGATION MEETING TOOK PLACE AT MARYFIELD ON 20 MARCH 1997. THE BRITISH SIDE WAS REPRESENTED BY MR BELL, MR FISHER, MRS OSBORNE AND MRS HARPER. THE IRISH SIDE WAS REPRESENTED BY MR DONOGHUE, MR DOWLING AND MR HACKETT.

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SUMMARY

2. ANOTHER BRISK BUSINESSLIKE MEETING.

ST PATRICK'S DAY RECEPTION ON 18 MARCH

3. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE ST PATRICK'S DAY RECEPTION EARLIER IN THE WEEK HAD BEEN ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL OCCASION AT THE SECRETARIAT. THE IRISH SIDE RECKONED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE NUMBERS WERE SLIGHTLY DOWN ON THE LAST CHRISTMAS RECEPTION, APPROXIMATELY 250 PEOPLE HAD ATTENDED, (AND ONLY ONE (IRISH) CHAIR HAD BEEN SMASHED UP BY A GUEST IN THE EARLY HOURS).

LAST IGC ON 12 MARCH

4. MR BELL CONGRATULATED THE IRISH SIDE ON THE ORGANISATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE IGC IN DUBLIN ON 12 MARCH. HE BELIEVED THE VENUE HAD BEEN AN IMPROVEMENT ON THE TRADITIONAL BALLROOM: THE ACOUSTICS WERE CERTAINLY BETTER. HE ADDED THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND LADY MAYHEW WERE ALSO MOST APPRECIATIVE OF THE TANAISTE'S HOSPITALITY FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE BUSINESS. LADY MAYHEW TOO ENJOYED HER ITINERARY THAT DAY.

NEXT IGC

5. MR BELL THEN SPECULATED ON THE POSSIBLE TIMING OF THE NEXT IGC. HE THOUGHT THAT THE IRISH SIDE MIGHT WANT ONE SHORTLY AFTER THE BRITISH GENERAL ELECTION ON 1 MAY. SHOULD THIS BE THE CASE, HE WAS SURE THAT BRITISH MINISTERS WOULD WANT AT LEAST A FEW WEEKS TO "SETTLE IN". IN ANY EVENT, A SHORT POSTPONEMENT OF AN IGC WOULD NOT PRECLUDE THE HOLDING OF 'ADARE TYPE' MEETINGS, IF NEEDED. WITH REGARD TO THE VENUE, HE HIGHLIGHTED THAT THE NIO OFFICES IN LONDON WOULD BY THAT TIME HAVE MOVED FROM THE OLD ADMIRALTY BUILDING TO MILLBANK. MR DONOGHUE CONFIRMED THAT THE IRISH SIDE WOULD BE LOOKING FOR AN IGC SOME TIME IN MAY, INDICATING THAT THIS COULD TAKE PLACE ROUND ABOUT THE THIRD WEEK OF THAT MONTH. BOTH SIDES RECOGNISED THAT A DATE COULD NOT BE REALISTICALLY CONSIDERED BY MINISTERS UNTIL AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION.

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PQs TABLED BY MR ROBERT MCCARTNEY MP ON THE ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT:  
WRITTEN NO 381 ON IRISH NOMINATIONS FOR PARADES COMMISSION

6. REFERRING TO EARLIER DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN BOTH SECRETARIES, MR DONOGHUE HANDED OVER A SUGGESTED DRAFT REPLY TO MR ROBERT MCCARTNEY MP'S PQ ASKING WHAT NAMES HAD BEEN PUT FORWARD BY THE IRISH SIDE OF THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE PROPOSED PARADES COMMISSION. HE SAID THAT THE SUGGESTED DRAFT REPLY WAS THE LEAST INFORMATION THE IRISH SIDE WOULD WANT TO PROVIDE (IE "NO NAMES HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD BY THE IRISH SIDE..."), STRESSING THAT THE IRISH SIDE WOULD HOPE THAT THIS SLIGHT DEPARTURE ON PREVIOUS RESPONSES WOULD NOT SET A PRECEDENT FOR PROVIDING DETAILS OF IRISH NOMINATIONS FOR SIMILAR FUTURE PQs. (THEY HAD EARLIER EXPRESSED A PREFERENCE FOR A MORE DELPHIC REPLY). MR BELL EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR THE IRISH SIDE'S CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH (AND DRAFT), POINTING OUT THAT HE WAS SURE THAT BRITISH SIDE MINISTERS WOULD WANT TO BE UNAMBIGUOUS SO AS TO AVOID MAKING THE DIFFICULT WORK OF THE PARADES COMMISSION ALL THE HARDER BY AROUSING ANY EVEN UNFOUNDED SUSPICIONS THAT THE IRISH GOVERNMENT HAD AN INFLUENCE ON THE APPOINTMENT OF ITS MEMBERS.

LORD OWEN'S INVITATION TO SECRETARY OF STATE AND TANAISTE TO PARTICIPATE IN A SERIES OF LECTURES ENTITLED "OPENINGS FOR PEACE"

7. MR DONOGHUE MENTIONED THAT THE TANAISTE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM LORD OWEN REQUESTING THAT HE CO-SPONSOR AND/OR SPEAK AT A SERIES OF EVENTS PROPOSED TO TAKE PLACE IN DUBLIN. HE UNDERSTOOD THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD RECEIVED A SIMILAR INVITATION TO DO LIKewise IN BELFAST. HE THOUGHT THAT THE TANAISTE WOULD BE IN FAVOUR OF PARTICIPATING, BUT THE IRISH SIDE WAS UNSURE AT THIS STAGE ABOUT THE VENUE. (THE IRISH SIDE HAVE SINCE CONFIRMED THAT OFFERING MODEST HOSPITALITY WOULD BE THE LIMIT OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT).

DR HAYES REPORT ON 'SECTARIAN HARASSMENT'

8. MR BELL REPORTED THAT THE FINDINGS OF DR HAYES' REVIEW FOLLOWING ALLEGATIONS OF SECTARIAN HARASSMENT IN DANI WOULD BE PUBLISHED (EXCEPT WHERE PERSONAL MATTERS WERE INVOLVED) AND THAT THIS WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BY MEANS OF AN ARRANGED PQ.

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9. MR BELL ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REPORT THAT FOUR ORDERS HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS THE PREVIOUS NIGHT: EPA RENEWAL; THE PUBLIC ORDER (AMENDMENT) (NI) ORDER L997; WINDING UP THE FORUM; AND THE REVISED STANDING ORDERS FOR TO THE NIGC.

FURTHER ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION CASES IN DANI

10. REFERRING TO PRESS REPORTS THAT MORNING, MR DONOGHUE INQUIRED ABOUT DETAILS ON THE ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION CASE CONCERNING A PRESS OFFICER IN DANI, WHICH WAS REPORTED TO HAVE THE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF THE MINISTER. MR BELL SAID HE DID NOT KNOW THE BACKGROUND TO THE CASE, BUT HE WAS SURE THE IRISH SIDE SHOULD HAVE LEARNED TO AIM OFF PRESS REPORTS ON THIS SUBJECT. (DANI HAS BEEN MINUTED SEPARATELY ABOUT THESE CASES).

"BLOODY SUNDAY"

11. REFERRING TO PRESS REPORTS ABOUT A STATEMENT MADE BY THE TANAISTE EARLIER THAT WEEK, MR DONOGHUE CONFIRMED THAT THE TANAISTE WOULD BE SUBMITTING IRISH SIDE VIEWS ON NEW EVIDENCE RECENTLY RECEIVED TO HMG WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. THE IRISH SIDE HAD SOUGHT LEGAL ADVICE ON THE EVIDENCE RELATING TO THAT CONCERNING 'SOLDIER A'. ONCE SUBMITTED, HE SAID THAT THE IRISH SIDE WOULD WANT THE BRITISH SIDE TO CONSIDER THE IRISH SIDE VIEWS AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY. MR BELL SAID THE BRITISH SIDE WAS GRATEFUL FOR ADVANCE WARNING. HE REAFFIRMED THAT HMG REMAINED, AND WOULD, HE BELIEVED, CONTINUE TO REMAIN POST THE GENERAL ELECTION, COMMITTED TO EXAMINING ANY NEW EVIDENCE RECEIVED, BUT WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO COMMENT PENDING THE CURRENT JUDICIAL REVIEW. HOWEVER, MR BELL POINTED OUT, AS MR DONOGHUE HAD RIGHTLY SAID TO MR DENIS MURRAY (BBC) AT THE ST PATRICK'S DAY RECEPTION, BOTH SIDES WANTED TO PUT THIS MATTER RAPIDLY TO REST AND HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE RESTRAINED APPROACH (MR DONOGHUE BRIDLED) THE TANAISTE WAS TAKING IN PUBLIC - AT LEAST COMPARED TO MR AHERN. MR DONOGHUE RELAXED - THOUGH POINTED OUT THAT THE TANAISTE HAD STATED PUBLICLY THAT THE WIDGERY REPORT WAS "SERIOUSLY FLAWED". WHEN PROMPTED BY MR BELL, HE UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE THE BRITISH SIDE WITH A COPY OF THE TEXT OF THE RELEVANT STATEMENT.

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INVITATION FROM CULTURAL TRADITIONS GROUP OF NICRC TO ATTEND MEETING  
ON "PRESENTATION OF NI ABROAD"

12. MR DONOGHUE INDICATED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED AN INVITATION FROM THE CULTURAL TRADITIONS GROUP TO ATTEND A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE PRESENTATION OF NI ABROAD. HE UNDERSTOOD MR BELL HAD RECEIVED A SIMILAR INVITATION. WHILST HE WAS STILL CONSIDERING THE INVITATION, MR DONOGHUE SAID THAT HE WAS SLIGHTLY UNEASY ABOUT BEING ASSOCIATED WITH WHAT WAS EFFECTIVELY A PROMOTION OF NI CONSTITUTIONALLY SEPARATE FROM THE ROI. MR BELL SAID HE WAS MINDED TO ATTEND, BUT WOULD BE SEEKING ADVICE FROM COLLEAGUES ABOUT WHAT HE COULD MOST USEFULLY CONTRIBUTE. (ADVICE NOW BEING SOUGHT).

"MCBRIDE PRINCIPLES"

13. MR DONOGHUE SAID THAT THE IRISH SIDE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE BRITISH CONSUL IN WASHINGTON STATE HAD WRITTEN TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE CRITICISING THE MCBRIDE PRINCIPLES, AND SUGGESTING THAT BRITISH COMPANIES MIGHT PREFER TO RELOCATE THEIR BUSINESSES TO SUCH US STATES WHERE THE MCBRIDE PRINCIPLES WERE NOT ENFORCED. HE INQUIRED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY SUBSTANCE TO THIS IMPLIED "BOYCOTT", OF WHICH BY IMPLICATION, MR DONOGHUE STRONGLY DISAPPROVED. COMMENTING THAT THE MCBRIDE PRINCIPLES HAD SUNK BELOW THE BRITISH SIDE'S HORIZON RECENTLY, MR BELL ASKED FOR FURTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE IRISH SIDE QUERY. (GRATEFUL FOR ADVICE FROM IPL/(CENTRAL SECRETARIAT.)

INCIDENT IN DERRYHIRK INN, LURGAN (LOG NO 2232)

14. MR DONOGHUE INQUIRED ABOUT BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE INCIDENT AT THE DERRYHIRK INN ON 14 MARCH WHEN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES OPENED FIRE ON A NUMBER OF MEN. MR FISHER SAID THAT THE IRISH SIDE LOG CASE WAS BEING PROCESSED, POINTING OUT THAT, AS THE IRISH SIDE WOULD BE AWARE, THE SECURITY FORCES HAD RECOVERED THE PREVIOUS DAY THREE LOADED RIFLES CLOSE TO THE INN. (THE SECRETARIAT IS SEEKING ADVICE FROM SPOB.)

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FUNDAMENTAL REVIEW OF POLICING - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

15. MR DONOGHUE REPORTED THAT HE HAD TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY IN THE MARGINS OF THE IGC ON 12 MARCH TO SPEAK TO THE CHIEF CONSTABLE ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE IRISH SIDE RECEIVING A COPY OF THE FULL REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE FUNDAMENTAL REVIEW OF POLICING. MR DONOGHUE SAID THE CHIEF CONSTABLE HAD PERSONALLY EXPLAINED TO HIM AT THE AIS PARTY THAT HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE THE FULL REPORT AS IT CONTAINED SENSITIVE INFORMATION RELATING TO SPECIAL BRANCH, BUT HE WAS, ON REFLECTION, PREPARED TO PROVIDE THE IRISH SIDE WITH A COPY OF THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY. THE IRISH SIDE WOULD FOLLOW THIS UP EITHER DIRECTLY WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE OR THROUGH THE USUAL CHANNEL OF THE SECRETARIAT IN DUE COURSE. (POLICE DIVISION AND SPOB SHOULD NOTE THIS EXAMPLE OF THE CURRENT IRISH TENDENCY TO GO DIRECT TO THE CHIEF CONSTABLE IF THEY CONSIDERED A RESPONSE THROUGH 'NORMAL CHANNELS' UNSATISFACTORY. THIS IS PURSUED SEPARATELY.)

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF PARADES COMMISSION

16. REFERRING TO DISCUSSIONS AT THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S IGC, MR DONOGHUE INQUIRED WHETHER THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD DECIDED YET ON THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE PARADES COMMISSION. MR BELL CONFIRMED THAT NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN MADE. (IRISH SIDE SINCE BRIEFED ON THE MEMBERSHIP.)

NI GRAND COMMITTEE

17. REFERRING TO DISCUSSIONS AT THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S IGC AND THE IRISH SIDE SUBSEQUENT NOTE OF 19 MARCH, MR DOWLING INQUIRED ABOUT THE POSITION RELATING TO THE QUESTION OF THE QUORUM FOR THE NIGC. (IRISH CONCERNS AT THE IGC WAS ABOUT THE PROPOSAL TO REDUCE THE (THEN) PRESENT LEVEL OF THE QUORUM FROM 14 TO 7. SUBSEQUENT CONSIDERATION PUT TO SECRETARY OF STATE WAS A POSSIBLE COMPROMISE QUORUM OF 10, WHICH THE IRISH SIDE WERE ALSO UNHAPPY ABOUT). IN RESPONSE, MR BELL POINTED OUT THAT THE RELATIVELY LARGE QUORUM OF 14 FOR THE SIZE OF THE NIGC MADE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR IT TO CONDUCT ITS BUSINESS, THE SUBSTANCE OF WHICH, HE REMINDED THE IRISH

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SIDE, WAS RELATIVELY NON-CONTENTIOUS. HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT, FOLLOWING IRISH SIDE CONCERNS THE BRITISH SIDE HAD INCREASED THE PROPOSED QUORUM LEVEL OF 7 TO 10.

**MICHAEL ANCRAM'S VISIT TO US**

18. MR BELL COMMENTED THAT MICHAEL ANCRAM HAD RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A VISIT FROM THE US WITH THE FEELING THAT THERE WAS A FIRM UNDERSTANDING OF, AND SUPPORT FOR, HMG'S APPROACH THAT SINN FEIN SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN TALKS UNLESS PIRA REDECLARED ITS CEASEFIRE. IN RESPONSE, MR DONOGHUE SAID THAT EQUALLY THERE WAS A CLEAR MESSAGE FROM THE US THAT SINN FEIN SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN TALKS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

**BRIEFINGS/FUNCTIONS**

19. THE USUAL LIST OF BRIEFINGS/FUNCTIONS IS ATTACHED AT ANNEX A.

LUNCH FOR DR MOWLAM ON 14 MARCH

20. MR BELL COMMENTED THAT THE LUNCH EARLIER IN THE MONTH FOR DR MOWLAM WAS AN ENJOYABLE OCCASION. HE WAS SURE THE IRISH SIDE, AS WAS THE BRITISH SIDE, WOULD BE LEFT WITH THE CLEAR MESSAGE THAT ANY FUTURE LABOUR GOVERNMENT WOULD BE COMMITTED TO: MAINTAINING A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE IRISH GOVERNMENT; AND INCLUSIVE TALKS TO INCLUDE, IF POSSIBLE, SINN FEIN. THEY WOULD ALSO BE NO LESS ATTACHED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF CONSENT, BOTH UNIONIST AND NATIONALIST; AND RECOGNISED THE NEED TO WIN AND HOLD THE SUPPORT OF UNIONISTS IF THERE WAS TO BE A NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

DINNER FOR SECRETARY OF STATE AND LADY MAYHEW: 25 MARCH

21. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND LADY MAYHEW WOULD BE COMING TO MARYFIELD FOR DINNER THE FOLLOWING WEEK. MR DONOGHUE SAID THAT THE IRISH SIDE WOULD BE PRESENTING THEM WITH A FAREWELL GIFT. (SEE SEPARATELY THE RECORD OF THE DINNER, NOT TO ALL.)

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BRIEFING ON HOSPITAL SERVICES

22. MR BELL EXPLAINED THAT IT HAD BEEN THE BRITISH SIDE'S INTENTION TO BRIEF THE IRISH SIDE ON HOSPITAL SERVICES SHORTLY BEFORE THE MINISTERS ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DECISION TO CLOSE RVH MATERNITY. HOWEVER, THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DECISION ON 18 MARCH WAS MADE AT VERY SHORT NOTICE. NONETHELESS, MR GOWDY HOPED TO OFFER THE IRISH SIDE SOME DATES FOR A BRIEFING IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. (SINCE ARRANGED PROVISIONALLY FOR 8 APRIL.) THERE WAS THEN SOME DISCUSSION ON THE ISSUE WITH THE IRISH SIDE ASKING WHY HMG HAD DECIDED TO MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE RUN UP TO A GENERAL ELECTION. MR BELL REASSURED THE IRISH SIDE THAT, WHILE HE UNDERSTOOD THE WIDER POLITICAL CONTEXT IN WEST BELFAST, THE DECISION WAS, IN THE MINISTER'S JUDGEMENT, THE RIGHT ONE IN TERMS OF NEO-NATAL CARE. HE ALSO CAUTIONED THE IRISH SIDE AGAINST BEING OVER-INFLUENCED BY A SELF INTEREST PROFESSIONAL LOBBY.

BRIEFING ON PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

23. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE MEETING TO DISCUSS THE JULY-DECEMBER 1997 SIX-MONTHLY LIST OF PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS HAD BEEN ARRANGED FOR 2.30 P.M. ON THURSDAY 3 APRIL.

24. MR DOWLING EXPRESSED IRISH SIDE'S DISAPPOINTMENT AND CONCERN ABOUT THE REASONS GIVEN FOR THE NON-SELECTION OF THEIR THREE NOMINEES TO THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION. MR BELL ASKED FOR FURTHER DETAIL BEFORE THE BRITISH SIDE COULD GIVE A FORMAL RESPONSE. (IRISH SINCE HANDED OVER A NOTE WHICH HAS BEEN PASSED TO CAU.)

BRIEFING ON MARCHING SEASON

25. MR DOWLING REQUESTED A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE FORTHCOMING MARCHING SEASON.

[SIGNED]

RUTH OSBORNE

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ANNEX B

BRIEFINGS

- |   |                     |                                     |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS | 3 APRIL, 2.30 P.M.                  |
| 2 | HEALTH MATTERS      | PROVISIONALLY 8<br>APRIL            |
| 3 | FAIR EMPLOYMENT     | TO BE ARRANGED<br>LATER IN THE YEAR |
| 4 | PARADES             | TO BE ARRANGED                      |

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    |
| NI PERMANENT SECRETARIES (NEW ROUND)   | TO BE ARRANGED    |

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