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423/97

FROM: RUTH OSBORNE
ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT
21 APRIL 1997

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

- CC PS/PUS (B&L) - B
- PS/SIR DAVID FELL - B
- M CARVILL
- M GOWDY
- M LOUGHRAN
- M SEMPLE
- M SMALL
- M SPENCE
- M THOMAS
- M STEELE - B
- M BELL - B
- M BLACKWELL - B
- M DANIELL - B
- M LEACH - B
- M SHANNON - B
- M STEPHENS - B
- M WATKINS - B
- M WOOD (B&L) - B
- M BEETON - B
- M BROOKER - B
- M HILL - B
- M BROWN - B
- M BUCHANAN - B
- M CANAVAN
- M COLLINS - B
- M LAVERY - B
- M ACCABE - B
- M PERRY - B
- DR POWER - B
- M SMYTH - B
- M WHITE - B
- MR PRIESTLY - B
- MISS BHARUCHA - B
- MISS DEVLIN - B
- MS MA APSTNE - B
- HMA, DUBLIN - B
- MR LAMONT, RID - B



28/4
Mrs McAuley
No Annex A. 102214

NOTE OF A DELEGATION MEETING HELD AT THE ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT ON 17 APRIL 1997

A DELEGATION MEETING TOOK PLACE AT M ARYFIELD ON 17 APRIL 1997. THE BRITISH SIDE WAS REPRESENTED BY M BELL, M FISHER, M OSBORNE, M HARPER AND M ISBROWN. THE IRISH SIDE WAS REPRESENTED BY M DONOGHUE, M M AGNER, M DOWLING AND M HACKETT.

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APPROX) ARRESTS IN CROSSMAGLEN ON 10 APRIL (LOG CASE NO. 2339)

2. MR DONOGHUE INQUIRED ABOUT A RESPONSE TO THE IRISH SIDE'S REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING ALLEGATIONS OF ASSAULT BY THE ARMY OF MESSRS [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED], AND WHETHER SEAMUS MALLON HAD BEEN ALLOWED ACCESS TO VISIT MR [REDACTED]. MR BELL REPORTED THAT THREE OF THE SEVEN INDIVIDUALS HAD BEEN CHARGED THAT MORNING AND THE OTHERS WOULD EITHER BE RELEASED OR CHARGED. COMMENTING THAT THE CHARGES WERE VERY GOOD NEWS, MR BELL POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE WELL DEFINED PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING ALLEGATIONS OF ASSAULT OF THIS KIND, WHICH TOOK TIME TO INVESTIGATE. THE IRISH SIDE'S REPRESENTATIONS HAD BEEN PROCESSED; AND DETAILS OF NAMES AND CHARGES WOULD BE PROVIDED LATER IN THE DAY. (IRISH SIDE SINCE PROVIDED WITH DETAILS ON CHARGES, INCLUDING THOSE FOR THE FOURTH INDIVIDUAL BY THE METROPOLITAN POLICE.)

GUARDSMEN FISHER AND WRIGHT (LOG NO.2313)

3. IN THANKING THE BRITISH SIDE FOR A COPY OF THE GIRVAN JUDGEMENT, MR DONOGHUE COMMENTED THAT ON A LAYMAN'S READING HE THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS NO COMPELLING CASE FOR AN EARLY REFERRAL TO THE LSRB. HE FURTHER INQUIRED ABOUT WHEN THE LSRB WOULD BE CONSIDERING THE CASES. MR BELL CONFIRMED THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S DECISION ON A DATE FOR LSRB CONSIDERATION WAS IMMINENT, BUT HE COULD NOT SAY WHEN THE LSRB WOULD CONSIDER THE CASES. HOWEVER, MR BELL ANTICIPATED THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE THIS SIDE OF THE ELECTION. ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH THE NORTHERN IRELAND PRISON AGENCY TO LET THE IRISH SIDE HAVE DETAILS, BUT, HE POINTED OUT, THIS WOULD NOT BE BEFORE THE SOLDIERS AND THEIR SOLICITORS HAD BEEN INFORMED. MR DONOGHUE EMPHASISED THAT THE IRISH SIDE CONSIDERED THAT NATIONALIST PERCEPTIONS OF AN EARLY REFERRAL FOR CONSIDERATION WOULD BE EQUATED WITH AN EARLY RELEASE. THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE EARLY RELEASES OF PRIVATES THAIN AND CLEGG WOULD BE CONTRASTED STARKLY WITH THE DECISIONS ON THE CASEMENT PARK CASES OF KANE, TIMMONS AND KELLY. THIS COULD HAVE A POTENTIAL CATASTROPHIC AFFECT ON THE PEACE PROCESS, ESPECIALLY IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ELECTION

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CAMPAIGN. MR DONOGHUE REQUESTED THAT IRISH CONCERNS BE DRAWN TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE. IN RESPONSE, MR BELL REASSURED THE IRISH SIDE THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE WAS WELL AWARE OF THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS. THE SECRETARY OF STATE ALSO TOOK HIS QUASI JUDICIAL ROLE MOST SERIOUSLY. (IRISH SIDE INFORMED OF THE DATE FOR CONSIDERATION (OCTOBER 1997) THAT AFTERNOON, SHORTLY AFTER FISHER AND WRIGHT WERE INFORMED.)

PRISONER BILLY WRIGHT

4. REFERRING TO EARLIER DISCUSSIONS, MR DONOGHUE INQUIRED ABOUT THE REQUEST OF PRISONER BILLY WRIGHT TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM SEGREGATED ACCOMMODATION IN HMP MAGHABERRY TO HMP MAZE FOR HIS OWN SAFETY. HE EMPHASISED IRISH SIDE CONCERNS ABOUT PRISONER WRIGHT'S MOTIVES BEING SINISTER, AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CLMC CEASEFIRE. RECOGNISING IRISH SIDE CONCERNS, MR BELL SAID THAT THE NORTHERN IRELAND PRISON AGENCY DECISION TO TRANSFER PRISONER WRIGHT TO HMP MAZE, WHICH WAS DESIGNED TO HOUSE HIGH RISK PRISONERS, WAS MADE ON PRAGMATIC GROUNDS AND FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF GOOD ORDER WITHIN THE PRISONS SYSTEM AS A WHOLE. MR BELL COULD CONFIRM THAT MINISTERIAL APPROVAL HAD BEEN MADE FOR THE TRANSFER, BUT HE UNDERSTOOD THE SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD BE FURTHER CONSULTED BEFORE THE ACTUAL TRANSFER TOOK PLACE.

ROISIN MCALISKEY (LOG NO. 2314)

5. REFERRING TO A FURTHER IRISH SIDE NOTE HANDED OVER THAT MORNING, MR DONOGHUE INQUIRED ABOUT THE POSITION ON THE INVESTIGATION CURRENTLY BEING CARRIED OUT ON A COMPLAINT MADE BY MS ROISIN MCALISKEY AGAINST A POLICE OFFICER DURING HER DETENTION AT CASTLEREAGH HOLDING CENTRE. MR BELL SAID THE IRISH SIDE QUERY WAS BEING PROCESSED. (IRISH SINCE ADVISED THAT INVESTIGATIONS ARE PENDING OUTCOME OF COURT CASE AGAINST COMPLAINANT).

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HMP MAZE INQUIRY FOLLOWING DISCOVERY OF TUNNEL ON 23 MARCH

6. MR DONOGHUE INQUIRED ABOUT WHEN THE REPORT INTO THE DISCOVERY OF THE TUNNEL AT HMP MAZE WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE. MR BELL UNDERTOOK TO MAKE INQUIRIES.

DISTURBANCES AT LIMESTONE ROAD, NORTH BELFAST

7. MR BELL DREW ATTENTION TO THE DISCUSSIONS MR DOWLING HAD HAD EARLIER IN THE WEEK WITH MR DALZELL, PRINCIPAL CIVREP, ABOUT THE DISTURBANCES THE PREVIOUS WEEKEND IN THE LIMESTONE ROAD AREA OF NORTH BELFAST. HE HOPED THE IRISH SIDE HAD FOUND THE DISCUSSIONS USEFUL AND THAT THEY WOULD THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT ACCEPTING THE INVITATION TO MEET WITH THE LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS AND VISIT THE AREA ON THE GROUND. THIS WOULD BE MOST BENEFICIAL IN OBTAINING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMPLEX PROBLEMS OF THAT AREA, WHICH, UNFORTUNATELY, WERE UNLIKELY TO DISAPPEAR. MR BELL EXPLAINED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE LATEST SECTARIAN DISTURBANCES WERE NOT THOUGHT TO HAVE PARAMILITARY INVOLVEMENT ON THIS OCCASION, THE WHOLE AREA OF NORTH BELFAST WAS FRAUGHT WITH TENSIONS OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER. APART FROM PREVAILING TENSIONS BETWEEN LOYALIST AND PIRA TERRORISTS, THERE WERE LONGSTANDING POWER STRUGGLES FOR TERRITORY BETWEEN LOYALIST FACTIONS IN THE SHORE ROAD/YORK ROAD AND BALLYSTALLAN AREAS. THERE WAS ALSO INTER-CITY SOCIAL PROBLEMS INVOLVING ELEMENTS OF HOOLIGANISM AND SECTARIAN HOOLIGANISM, SOME OF WHICH MAY BE DRUG-RELATED. MR BELL EMPHASISED THAT ALL THIS WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO POLICE. MR DOWLING SAID THAT THE IRISH SIDE CONSIDERED THE EXISTING SEMI-PERMANENT POLICE PRESENCE IN THE SMALL AREA OF THE LIMESTONE ROAD TO BE INADEQUATE. THERE SHOULD BE AN INCREASED NUMBER OF LANDROVERS AND PATROLLING TO EFFECTIVELY PROTECT NATIONALISTS, ESPECIALLY THE EIGHT VULNERABLE ROMAN CATHOLIC FAMILIES LIVING IN A ROW OF FLATS. RESPONDING TO THE SUGGESTION OF THE IRISH SIDE VISITING THE LOCAL POLICE, MR DONOGHUE SAID THE IRISH SIDE CONSIDERED IT NOT THE MOST TACTFUL THING TO DO UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. ALTHOUGH HE RECOGNISED THE DIFFICULTIES, MR DONOGHUE SUPPORTED MR DOWLING'S SUGGESTION OF THE NEED FOR AN INCREASED POLICE PRESENCE IN THE AREA, FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONALISTS.

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MR BELL AND MR FISHER RESPONDED THAT BOTH COMMUNITIES WERE VULNERABLE TO ATTACK IN THAT AREA, AS WERE THE POLICE THEMSELVES, WHOSE RESOURCES WERE LIMITED, AND LIKELY TO BECOME INCREASINGLY STRAINED IN THE COMING MONTHS.

OTHER MATTERS

8. MR MAGNER REPORTED THAT MR SLOAN, POB, HAD BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND A MEETING IN DUBLIN TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF EXPLOSIVES.

9. MR FISHER INQUIRED ABOUT WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAD ANY PLANS TO MEET AGAIN WITH CRIMINAL JUSTICE OFFICIALS IN THE NIO TO DISCUSS MUTUAL DRUGS RELATED PROBLEMS. MR MAGNER SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN AGREED AT THE LAST MEETING IN OCTOBER TO MEET IN ABOUT SIX MONTHS TIME. THERE WAS NO REASON IN PRINCIPLE WHY ANOTHER MEETING COULD NOT BE ARRANGED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

BRIEFINGS/FUNCTIONS

10. A LIST OF FORTHCOMING BRIEFINGS/FUNCTIONS TO BE HELD AT MARYFIELD IS ATTACHED AT ANNEX A.

HOSPITALITY

11. MR DONOGHUE REPORTED THAT:-

(I) PROFESSOR DES REA HAD INDICATED WHEN HE HAD MET HIM AT A FUNCTION RECENTLY THAT THE JIGSAW GROUP WOULD LIKE TO RETURN TO MARYFIELD. PROFESSOR REA WOULD CONTACT HIM WITH SOME SUGGESTED DATES;

(II) (IN RESPONSE TO A SUGGESTION MADE BY THE PRINCIPAL CIVREP, MR ERIC DALZELL), THE IRISH SIDE WOULD BE INVITING THE OC AND SENIOR ARMY PERSONNEL OF 2 LI AT PALACE BARRACKS TO DINNER SOON. MR BELL COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS AN EXTREMELY GOOD IDEA.

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