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ROM:

RUTH OSBORNE  
ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT  
9 May 1997

- PUS(B&L)
- PS/Sir David Fell
- Mr Carvill
- Mr Elliott
- Mr Loughran
- Mr Semple
- Mr Small
- Mr Spence
- Mr Thomas
- Mr Steele
- Mr Bell
- Mr Blackwell
- Mr Daniell
- Mr Leach
- Mr Shannon
- Mr Stephens
- Mr Watkins
- Mr Wood (B&L)
- Mr Beeton
- Mr Brooker
- Mr Hill
- Mrs Brown
- 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



*Mr. H. O'Connell (OP)*  
*LD 9/15*

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

**NOTE OF A DELEGATION MEETING HELD AT THE ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT ON 8 MAY 1997**

An unusually short, snappy Delegation meeting took place at Maryfield on 8 May 1997, the effervescent mood reflecting the tonic effect of the new administration. The British side was represented by Mr Bell, Mr Fisher, Mrs Osborne and Miss Brown. The Irish side was represented by Mr Donoghue, Mr Magner, Mr Dowling and Mr Hackett.



**RUC'S 75th ANNIVERSARY**

2. Mr Bell commented that the RUC and the Garda Siochana would be jointly celebrating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the RUC at the Waterfront Hall on 31 May.

**PARADES**

3. Mr Donoghue said that the Irish side welcomed the police decision to re-route the forthcoming Saturday's 'Ormeau Residents Demand Equal Rights' parade on the Ormeau Road, and the cancellation of the forthcoming Royal Black Perceptory parade in Dunloy. Indicating that the failed attempt of the 'Spirit of Drumcree' group of the Orange Order to overturn the agreement reached locally in Dromore was also to be welcomed, Mr Donoghue commented that developments associated with that Group and within the Orange Order generally was difficult to interpret. He reported that the Irish side understood that the Garvaghy Road Residents Association had sought a meeting with the Secretary of State. Mr Bell agreed that although developments on the marching season remained difficult to predict, he understood that the Chief Constable saw some encouraging features in the present situation, as indeed he did himself.

**QUEEN'S SPEECH**

4. Mr Donoghue said that the Irish side understood that the Queen's Speech setting out the legislative programme for the forthcoming Session of Parliament would take place on 14 May. He inquired about details and timetable for NI legislation, expressing specific interest in what was proposed for the North recommendations. Indicating that Cabinet was discussing the Legislative Programme that very morning, Mr Bell responded that the Secretary of State would most likely be bidding for the renewal of the Emergency powers; a Public Order Bill implementing North's recommendations; and a Police (NI) Bill. (The incorporation into UK law of the European Convention of Human Rights was also a candidate.) However, he could not anticipate the Cabinet's decisions: HMG had a very heavy legislative programme ahead, including for example anticipated lengthy debates on proposed devolution bills for Scotland and Wales. But, Mr Bell reassured the Irish



side, the Secretary of State was firmly committed to implementing in full Dr North's recommendations, though he cautioned the Irish side against expecting this to be done in time for the forthcoming Marching Season.

5. In response to expressed interest in the proposals for a Police (NI) Bill, Mr Bell said this would most likely be a complex piece of legislation primarily concerned with the reform of the tripartite structure of the NIO, PANI and the RUC, but although primarily of administrative importance it would nevertheless open the door to further changes designed to enhance the acceptability of the RUC to both communities. For example, and while emphasising that no decisions had yet been made, Mr Bell commented that opportunity could also be taken to include the implementation of recommendations of Dr Hayes' Report on Police Complaints and Discipline Procedures, as well as incorporating additional confidence building measures. Noting with great interest, Mr Dowling requested a briefing when it became known whether and when the Bill had a slot in the parliamentary timetable. In response to a query about legislation for Fair Employment, Mr Fisher indicated that SACHR was behind schedule; their report on fair employment was not expected to be submitted to the Secretary of State until at least June. Ending discussions, Mr Bell undertook to keep the Irish side informed, but again cautioned the Irish against assuming that, once SACHR had reported, it would only be a question of implementing their recommendations. (A caution repeated by Sir David Fell at dinner at Maryfield later that day.)

#### **CLOSURE OF MATERNITY SERVICES AT RVH**

6. Mr Donoghue commented that the Irish side understood that an application for Judicial Review had been made on the decision to close the maternity services at RVH.

#### **RECENT INCIDENTS AT WATERFRONT HALL AND NEWTOWNABBEY**

7. Mr Donoghue inquired about more detail on the controlled explosions outside the Waterfront Hall, and the specific loyalist faction believed to have been responsible for the device outside the home of a man in the Bawnmore Park area of



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Newtownabbey earlier in the week. Mr Bell said the British side had nothing further to add to incident reports already provided to the Irish side.

**ALLEGED ASSAULT ON [REDACTED] DURING ARREST OPERATION IN SOUTH ARMAGH ON 10 APRIL**

8. Referring to discussions earlier in the week, Mr Dowling expressed (somewhat bureaucratic) concern that an RUC Inspector had contacted the Irish Embassy in London direct about the case of [REDACTED] rather than the matter being processed through the Secretariat under the auspices of the AIA. Mr Fisher pointed out that inquiries had been processed through the Secretariat, probably simultaneously with those through the Irish Embassy in London. The important point was that the Irish side concerns had been followed up.

**DEPLOYMENT OF 3 PARA TO GIRDWOOD, NORTH BELFAST**

9. Referring to earlier discussions about an Irish News article (28 April), Mr Dowling expressed Irish side concern about the possible deployment of a Parachute Regiment to North Belfast this summer. This was of especial concern as 1 Para would be arriving almost simultaneously in mid-Ulster. Mr Dowling urged that if this was the case the matter be reviewed as a matter of urgency. Mr Donoghue added that the deployment of a Parachute Regiment in North Belfast this summer would be "disastrous". Being non-committal, Mr Fisher said that Irish side views had been noted.

**PRISONER ROISIN McALISKEY**

10. Mr Dowling inquired about any developments on the conditions for prisoner Roisin McAliskey. Reassuring the Irish side that prisoner McAliskey was being given all due care and attention, Mr Bell, in response, drew on briefing prepared for the PM's meeting with the Taoiseach, designed to show the care being taken of Ms McAliskey.



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**PUBLIC EXPENDITURE**

11. Mr Dowling requested a briefing on the new Government's proposals for public expenditure. The Irish side would have specific interest in the ACE scheme and education. (DFP to note.)

**SECURITY MEASURES FOR [REDACTED]**

12. Mr Dowling further inquired about [REDACTED] request for the installation of security measures at her home following the claim that she was being targetted by the LVF. Mr Fisher reported that the POB were now in receipt of the police assessment and should be reaching a decision within the week. Mr Fisher advised that should [REDACTED] have any queries/concerns she should contact POB direct - she already had details of the relevant address and telephone number. Mr Dowling commented that the Irish side were most encouraged that arrangements were in hand.

13. Mr Bell commented that Ms Mary Harney TD was paying a courtesy call on the Secretary of State the following week.

**BRIEFINGS/FUNCTIONS**

14. Attached at Annex A are details of forthcoming briefings/functions to be held at Maryfield.

**Hospitality**

15. Mr Donoghue requested that a further invitation to lunch be extended to Mr Maccabe and colleagues, ahead of the forthcoming local elections. He suggested 20 May as a suitable date for the Irish side.

16. Mr Donoghue confirmed that the Irish side would be content for Mr Spence to bring along his Senior Management Team to the dinner scheduled for 13 May.



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17. Both sides noted that arrangements had been made for Mr Pozorski, one of Senator Mitchell's staffers, to come to Maryfield for lunch the following Wednesday (14 May). Mr Hill could not unfortunately be present.

18. In their customary tete a tete (minuted separately) the two Secretaries:

- reviewed the previous night's cordial and constructive working dinner between their Ministers;
- the possibility of a limited adjournment of the Talks process after 3 June was floated; and
- The Irish were pressed hard for a response to our paper on decommissioning and for their views on timeframes for Strand 3.

*Ruth Osborne*

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