



cc PS/Mr Worthington (DENI, DHSS&L)
PS/Mr Murphy (DFP, B&L)
PS/Lord Dubs (DOE, DANI & L)
PS/PUS (B&L)
PS/Sir David Fell
NI Permanent Secretaries
Mr Steele
DED Departmental Board Members
Mr Watkins
Mr Wood (B&L)
Mr MacCabe
Mrs Brown
Mr Brooker
Mr Hill
Mrs Heron
Mr Ray
MC

3 July 1997

TO: 1. PS/Mr Ingram (DED&L)
2. PS/Secretary of State (B&L)

FROM: Malcolm Briant (DED)

MEETING WITH "GROUP OF 7": 12 NOON MONDAY 7 JULY

Purposes

1. The purpose of this note and attachments is to provide briefing for the Secretary of State's meeting with the Group of 7 which has been arranged following their request in May.

Purpose of the Meeting

2. This meeting provides an ideal opportunity to emphasise the holistic approach of the interdependency of political, law and order and economic stability to the future prosperity and progress for the whole Northern Ireland community.
3. The Secretary of State will be able to:
 - a. encourage and support the Group of 7's efforts to convey the



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importance of stability to NI's future economic prosperity and growth; and

- b. discuss ways and means by which the Group and Government can work together for mutual benefit.

Issues

4. The agenda for the meeting is likely to be dictated by events over the weekend and the prospects for the coming month. The Secretary of State will wish to brief the Group on her understanding of the situation pertaining on the morning of 7 July.
5. Against the above backcloth, the Secretary of State and the Group of 7 can discuss how best, from their respective stances, positive progress may be made.

Briefing

6. Attached below is:-
 - a. CV material of the Group of 7 representatives attending the meeting (Annex I) [to follow when representatives known];
 - b. Bull points on the work of the Group of 7 and the importance of their continued efforts - on which the Secretary of State may wish to draw (Annex II);
 - c. A suggested framework for the meeting (Annex III); this will be a matter for judgement on the day depending upon events over the weekend.



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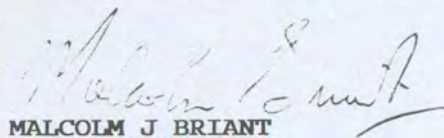
7. NIO colleagues will be providing separate up-to-date briefing on political and security issues.

Draft Press Release

8. Attached at Annex IV is a suggested draft Press Release.

Attendance of Officials

9. Mr Loughran will be attending in support of the Secretary of State.


MALCOLM J BRIANT



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ANNEX II

GROUP OF 7

1. The Group of 7 represent the 6 major business organisations in Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. As such they represent local, independent authoritative and credible voices.
2. The Group of 7 have jointly put a very considerable effort into trying to get people in Northern Ireland to understand the linkage between economic prosperity and stability and that each individual in Northern Ireland has a responsibility and can make a difference. Their open letter of 6 June 1997, their various articles in the press, their contact with and lobbying of politicians all represent and combine to encourage all in NI to give considered thought to the risks associated with ill-considered actions. The Group of 7 are providing a very important service to all in NI.
3. It is important that their rational and reasoned message continues to be reiterated and relayed.

ANNEX III

Suggested framework for meeting

1. Welcome.
2. Expression of appreciation and support for the efforts of Group of 7 to impress upon all in NI the importance of stability for economic success and that **everyone in Northern Ireland** has a role to play in helping achieve stability.
3. Offer an assessment of the situation on the ground as at 7 July.
4. Seek Group of 7 views on the assessment.
5. Seek agreement to maintaining close contact with the Group of 7 and agree a central point of contact at official level and within the Group of 7 for operational exchanges.
6. Agree any actions arising from discussions which can be taken forward, and by whom.

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DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

July 1997

SECRETARY OF STATE PRAISES WORK OF G7

The Secretary of State, Dr Mo Mowlam, today paid tribute to the work of the Group of 7 (G7), the voluntary association of business, trade union and economic development bodies.

Speaking after a meeting with the Group, at which discussion centred on how Government, business and trade unions could best work in partnership to ensure economic progress, Dr Mowlam said: "I have been very impressed by, and fully support, the work of the G7. They remind us all that Northern Ireland has come a long way and that if we want to look towards a secure and prosperous future then there is an excellent base on which to build.

"I believe that the G7 is right to stress that each of us has a responsibility to do what we can as individuals to promote greater harmony and I and my team are doing all we can to get each and every one of us to recognise the opportunity for peace which is within our grasp.

[Message depending on events on the day - perhaps agreed with members of G7]

NOTE TO EDITORS

The G7 consists of the CBI, Hospitality Association of Northern Ireland, Institute of Directors, Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish

Committee of Trade Unions, Northern Ireland Economic Council and
the Northern Ireland Growth Challenge.

ISSUED DW & S.T.
4/7/97

cc. PS/Mr Ingram (DED&L)
PS/Sir David Fell
Mr Loughran
Mr Briant
Mrs Heron
Miss McAllister

CI
DR. MAXWELL
P.P.

4.7.97

- FAXED

To: Joanne Nixon (Secretary of State's Office)

Fm: Ashley Ray (DED)

GROUP OF 7: CV INFORMATION

1. We understand that the following will be attending the meeting as representatives of the Group:-

NIEC - Sir George Quigley
CBI - Bill Tosh, together with:-
Chris Gibson; and
Deirdre Stewart
Growth Challenge - Frank Hewitt
IOD - Ann Shaw
NI Chamber of Commerce - Stephen Kingon
NIC/ICTU - Frank Bunting; and
Tom Gillen
Hospitality Association for NI - Felix Mooney; and
Neville Morrison

Attached is the CV information we have been able to pull together at short notice.

2. We now understand that Mr Ingram will also be present.

Ashley Ray
Ashley Ray