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13 JAN 1998

From: PS/Secretary of State
13 January 1998

Mr Black
Mr Jones
LD 2/11

- cc: PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - O
- PS/Mr Murphy (DFP, B&L) - O
- PS/Mr Ingram (DED, B&L) - O
- PS/PUS (B&L) - O
- PS/Mr Semple - O
- Mr Bell - O
- Mr Stephens - O
- Mr Watkins - O
- Mr Holmes, DENI
- Mr Brooker - O
- Mr Hill - O
- Mr Maccabe - O
- Ms Bharucha - O

C

1. 4 to Jones
2. Mr Ferguson

Diane McNally - O

SECRETARY OF STATE'S MEETING WITH WILLIAM FLYNN

Thank you for the briefing which you supplied for the Secretary of State's meeting with Bill Flynn and Tom Moran. This took place yesterday in Parliament Buildings and lasted for just 15 minutes because the Secretary of State had to leave to attend the Talks plenary in Castle Buildings.

2. Mr Flynn was fulsome in his praise of the Secretary of State for her high risk strategy in visiting the loyalist prisoners in the Maze last week. It had taken great courage and he was pleased that it had worked. Dr Mowlam's standing in the United States was even higher than before and she was assured of a welcome at any time. Tom Moran endorsed all of this.

3. The Secretary of State said there were three things she wanted to put to Mr Flynn - assistance for the loyalist parties and SDLP; public support for the outcome of the Talks and the Referendum in US and Europe; and help with funding for Springvale. On the first, the Secretary of State said that the PUP and UDP, and to a certain extent, the SDLP, needed advice, backup and even finance in the period leading up to the Referendum on the Talks outcome. Sinn Fein appeared to have all of these. Tom Moran said that the loyalist parties, and in particular, David Ervine, had made a tremendous impression on the American community generally and were assured of a great reception whenever they came to the United States. The SDLP, on the other hand, had reached into the political community. He and Bill Flynn both thought that something could be done to assist these parties and undertook to reflect on it.

4. The Secretary of State then explained how she wanted to mobilise public opinion in the United States and in Britain and Europe generally so that there was wide support for the outcome of the Talks. She explained the background to the tabling of the Propositions and how these were not set in stone, not to be imposed, not a rejection of the Joint Framework Document, nor a first step to a United Ireland. However, she hoped that all the parties would find enough within them in the weeks and months ahead to be able to at least acquiesce in what might transpire as an agreed outcome. The two Governments would ensure that they worked together on this. Mr Flynn said that, in his view, it was not for them to agree or disagree with the outcome - all they wanted was a peaceful solution that people could live with. He said the facilities of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy were available at any time. Tom Moran recalled that at the time of the Joint Framework Document they had placed 4-page advertisements in the New York Times, supported by a corporate readership who had put their names to the advertisement congratulating the two Governments. That was the sort of thing that they could easily put together again at a suitable moment. One of the main fears that had been expressed to them over the course of the day was that the Joint Framework Document was going to be replaced. They also suggested strongly that the threat of violence should not result in the Government moving to help one side or the other.

5. The Secretary of State finally mentioned Springvale and said that it was her intention to put equivalent amounts of money to it and to the Millennium project in East Belfast. She said she intended to visit the US to raise money for Springvale. A number of possible sources for this were discussed including [REDACTED] the latter in particular if the project had Sinn Feins support. The Secretary of State said she would write to Mr Flynn about the Springvale project. I would be grateful for a draft from **Mr Holmes**, please.

SIGNED

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