

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



Reference Code:	2015/89/68
Creation Date(s):	14 June 1985
Extent and medium:	3 pages
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
Access Conditions:	Open
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Secret

Meeting with Bishop Cahal Daly, 13 June 1985

I met with Bishop Daly at his home in Belfast yesterday. Among the points he made were the following:

- referring to recent press reports about difficulties in the Anglo-Irish talks he said that he would be fearful of the consequences of a failure by the two Governments to reach agreement. There would be an inexorable drift within the nationalist community to Sinn Fein and the possibility of inter-community warfare would be very great;
- he would hope that the talks would lead to an involvement by the Irish Government in the affairs of Northern Ireland which would in practice mean constitutional change but which should never be referred to as constitutional merely institutional;
- for any agreement to succeed it must have at least the acquiescence and preferably the full support of Seamus Mallon. Mallon's support is essential if there is not to be major and serious inter-party problems in the South;
- he warned that we must be very careful not to end up in a position in which we are bearing responsibility for the actions of the security forces without some measure of control over those forces;
- he sees the publicity and the statements which followed the Killeen bombing as indicating that Hermon has suffered a defeat at the hands of the British Government;
- the success of Sinn Fein in the district council elections, particularly in West Belfast, is a clear indication of the depth of alienation within the minority community and particularly within the minority working-class community. The sense of protest against the establishment and the sense of frustration at their lot is deep and will take a very long time to disappear;

- economic progress and the provision of jobs for the deprived and particularly for nationalists, who over the years have suffered deprivation more than unionists, is crucial. Unless people can have hope for the future no political solution will be found. He was encouraged by what he had heard about the possibility of massive foreign investment as part of an Anglo-Irish agreement;
- he was highly critical of Sir Philip Foreman and Shorts. He had no doubt but that the hopes which Foreman had raised among Catholic teenagers in West Belfast were being dashed and he fully supported the headmistress of St. Louise's school who recently complained about undue delay in places being provided for some of her graduate girls who had been accepted for Shorts. He was also very critical of the delay in the opening of the Shorts factory in West Belfast;
- he was very pleased at the statement made by the Pope when he received the British Ambassador recently. That Ambassador had called on the Bishop prior to taking up his position in Rome as had Christopher Mallaby of the Cabinet Office;
- he thought that there were some good signs at the Presbyterian General Assembly. He had written to the new Moderator, Bertie Dickenson, who is a hardline reformist and an Orangeman, and had received a pleasant reply in which Dickenson had asked if he could call on the Bishop. The Bishop would be very happy to receive him;
- he said that the behaviour of the UDR at the Castle Street gates in West Belfast is appalling. They are acting in a most aggressive fashion towards members of the minority community and particularly towards teenagers. He told Mallaby that, whatever he (the Bishop) might want, he accepted that it is not possible to disband the UDR. They should however be withdrawn completely from nationalist areas and should not be used around nationalist areas and

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on the interface between nationalist and loyalist areas. He asked if I would raise the Castle Street gates with the British. I told him that we had already done so but that we would do so again;

- he had also told Mallaby that in any reform of the police the name must be changed to something like Northern Ireland Constabulary. The fact^{is}/that the two words "Royal" and "Ulster" are emotionally loaded and belong only to one community.

Doc

Daithi O'Ceallaigh
14 June, 1985.

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