

C O N F I D E N T I A L

UM: CLIVE BARBOUR
28 OCTOBER 1993

CB/26122/93/AL

cc	Mr Thomas	- B
	Mr Williams	- B
	Mr Bell	- B
	Mr Watkins	- B
	Mrs Collins	
	Mr Maccabe	- B
	Mr Maxwell	- B
	Mr Brooker	- B
	Mr Dodds	- B
	Mr Cooke	- B
	Mr Kyle	
	Ms Steele	- B
	Ms Lodge	- B
	Mr Wolesley	
	Mr Dickinson	
	Mr Archer	- B
	Mr McKervill	- B
	Supt Irvine	
	Chief ^{Inspr.} Supt McGuigan	

NOTE OF A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE FORTHCOMING VISIT BY THE TAOISEACH TO LONDONDERRY ON 19 NOVEMBER AND THE POSSIBLE ATTENDANCE OF PRESIDENT ROBINSON AT THE WORLD CUP FOOTBALL MATCH ON 17 NOVEMBER

A meeting took place at Maryfield on 28 October 1993 to discuss the attendance at the "Highlight North West Conference" in the Guildhall, Londonderry due to take place on Friday 19 November. The British side of the Secretariat was represented by Mr Williams, Mr Kyle and Mr Barbour. Mr Maxwell, Ms Steele and Mr Dickinson were present from Central Secretariat, Mr Wolesley represented the Press Office and Superintendent Irvine and Chief Inspector McGuigan were present from the RUC. The Irish side was represented by Mr Farrell and Ms O'Donoghue together with Mr Collinge from the Department of the Taoiseach.

2. The attached outline programme for the Taoiseach's visit at Annex A was discussed.

2. The following points were also made:

- As the Secretary of State and the Taoiseach would be flying in to Eglinton Airport and it was proposed that their arrival times should dovetail;

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- It was likely that the Mayor of Derry City Council, Cllr Courtney would wish to greet the Taoiseach on arrival, and in all likelihood, John Hume MP would also be present;
- The Secretary of State and Taoiseach would depart in separate cars for the Guildhall;
- The Taoiseach's party would include his Press Secretary Sean Duignan and his protection officer;
- Mr Wolesley undertook to brief and accredit the press on the morning of the visit. It was expected that the press would wish to witness the presentation of the cheque from the Taoiseach to the Pilots Row Project during the programme;
- Ms Steele and Mr Collinge undertook to keep in close contact about any further developments and both would be in attendance on the day.

POSSIBLE ATTENDANCE OF PRESIDENT ROBINSON AT THE WORLD CUP FOOTBALL MATCH ON 17 NOVEMBER

3. Mr Williams suggested that it might be prudent to use the opportunity to discuss the possible visit of President Robinson and Irish Ministers to the forthcoming world cup match between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic at Windsor Park on 17 November. He reported that David Fell and Ambassador Blatherwick had been informed by Mr Murray, the Secretary to Government that President Robinson was interested in attending the match. At this point Mr Collinge interjected to say that although such a visit remained a possibility, he had not been authorised to speak about the matter. Mr Williams noted Mr Collinge's remarks, but pointed out that it would be useful nonetheless to hear what the RUC had to say about the matter.

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Superintendent Irvine reported that given the background of the recent bombings and shootings, there could be major security implications if President Robinson were to attend the match. He felt that it would become obvious that she was in the Directors' box and he could not rule out that there might be a hostile reaction. The match would be played at Windsor Park which was the ground of Linfield whose supporters were primarily loyalists and the attendance of the President would have quite profound implications on police resources and could exacerbate existing problems.

5. Mr Williams also underlined that the police were being stretched at the moment due to the high levels of tension. He stressed that in the normal course of events Ministers would be delighted to see President Robinson attending such a match, but he felt that it would be useful to know, as quickly as possible, how keen she would be to come to the match. If the Irish side reported that she was indeed keen in attending, then it would be necessary to consult the Secretary of State and the advice given by the RUC would, of course, need to be taken into consideration.

6. Superintendent Long enquired whether other Ministers were intending to come to the match? Ms Steele pointed out she understood that the Irish Sports Minister would be in Northern Ireland on that day. Superintendent Long said that he did not rule out the presence of "low profile" Irish Ministers attending, but the presence of well known personalities such as the President, the Taoiseach or the Tánaiste were likely to be noticed by other spectators at the match.

7. The meeting concluded by Mr Williams asking the Irish side to convey the British side's thoughts to Dublin and he asked that the Secretariat might be given an indication as quickly as possible of the President's views on the matter.

[Signed]

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DRAFT PROGRAMME

TAOISEACH'S VISIT TO LONDONDERRY

FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER 1993

- 9.30 am - Taoiseach and party arrive at Eglinton Airport to be greeted by the Mayor of Derry City Council, Mrs Courtney.
- 9.55 am - Taoiseach and Secretary of State to arrive at the Guildhall where they will be greeted by the Mayor, Annie Courtney (SDLP), the Chairman, Councillor Arthur Doherty (SDLP), Mayor of Limavady Borough Council, the Vice-Chairman, Senator Paddy McGowan, and by John Hume.
- Taoiseach and the Secretary of State will proceed upstairs to the Conference.
 - Both will be invited to speak for 15 minutes each. (The Secretary of State to speak first).
- 10.35 am - Joint photocall outside the Conference Hall.
- There will be a joint doorstep media briefing outside the Mayor's parlour.
 - Secretary of State departs.
- 10.40 am - The Taoiseach will proceed to the Mayor's Parlour for refreshments, introductions etc.
- 10.55 am
(approx) - The Taoiseach will be available to meet the Press, TV etc in the nearby Council Chamber.

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- The Taoiseach will present a cheque from the Soldiers and Sailors Fund for the Pilots Row Project in the Council Chamber to the Director.

11.15 am

(approx)

- The Taoiseach will depart Londonderry by car to Eglinton

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