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From: Tony Beeton
XDS
5 December 1994

DESK IMMEDIATE

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

- cc: PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - B
- PS/Michael Ancram (L&B) - B
- PS/PUS (L&B) - B
- PS/Mr Fell - B
- Mr Legge - B
- Mr Thomas - B
- Mr Brooke - B
- Mr Leach - B
- Mr Watkins - B
- Mr Williams - B
- Mr Wood (L&B) - B
- Mr Currie - B
- Mr Brooker - B
- Mr Maccabe - B
- Mr Stephens - B

in Stephens
How nice!
216/12
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UNDER/ 216/12
SEC
- 5 DEC 1994
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TELEPHONE CALL FROM SEIN FEIN, 5 DECEMBER 1994

At about 3.30 pm today I had another telephone call from Gerry Adams' assistant, Siobhan (with whom I had spoken on Friday concerning arrangements for XD).

2. She said that she was calling to ask a number of practical questions. First, could she have our fax number again (I had given her a new fax number in SIL during one of Friday's calls). I gave it to her and asked whether I could expect something on it shortly. She was not sure but thought it would probably be tomorrow morning.

3. She then turned to arrangements for Friday. Her first question was whether we had any information about the possibility of demonstrations at 'the gates to Stormont'. I told her that I was not aware of any such information but I understood the concern and we would bear it in mind. She asked about how the delegation

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would get through the barriers, adding that they would of course provide us with car details nearer the time. I thanked her for that and agreed that her suggestion of a telephone call on Friday morning to give us warning of their department ^{were} and an ETA would be helpful. I went on to say that we planned to have someone available at the entrance to the Estate to ensure that there were no problems and to pilot the delegation to the correct entrance to Parliament Buildings and their arranged car parking spaces. I told her that there would be clear car park reserved for those taking part in exploratory dialogue and said that, subject to Sinn Fein's agreement, we proposed to allow journalists access to a position behind a barrier at the door to Parliament Buildings on this first day to facilitate arrival shots of the delegation. Other than then it would be our intention to keep the media further below the building.

4. At this point she apologised for a difficulty in visualising the arrangements 'because you see, Tony, we have never been to the building'. She paused and added - genuinely I thought as something which was occurring to her then - that it might be helpful if we could arrange an opportunity for someone to see the location. I said that I was sure that that could be arranged if that would be helpful. (It was clear that she was not proposing anything which could be described as a logistics meeting, but something more informal - it would I think, be a rendezvous confined strictly to practical matters.)

5. She returned to the press. If Sinn Fein brought a PRO with them were we proposing to have somewhere from which they could operate. I said that it was a matter for them who they brought to represent them and that we had three rooms for their delegation - one a general room which might be used by their delegation support, one delegation room and another office. In reply to a further question, I said that we had no plans to offer a facility to journalists for access to the building itself. I added that

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anyway the whole question of how we would deal with the press and any briefing about the dialogue was an issue upon which we should want to engage at our first meeting.

6. She asked me whether we had finalised our delegation. I asked her whether they had finalised theirs. We agreed that this was information we would make available to one another later in the week. Siobhan added that Gerry Adams was out of the country at the moment but would be returning on Wednesday and they would probably finalise their delegation after that. I felt that there was just a hint of an implication that Adams could be part of the team, but a definite sense that he was closely involved in the decisions about how Sinn Fein would approach it.

7. Siobhan promised to telephone me again tomorrow about a possible practicalities meeting after she had talked to some of those involved about the kinds of further information they would find useful.

SIGNED

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