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Handwritten notes:
Tony
for file
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STORCAS BFST

IS THIS THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION BUREAU, DUBLIN

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ATTENTION R A HINCHEY, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION BUREAU, DUBLIN
FROM GERRY, STORMONT CASTLE, BELFAST

FOLLOWING MADE AVAILABLE. WE HAVE NO OFFICIAL INVOLVEMENT.

7 JANUARY 1974

I HAVE TODAY SENT THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO SIR GEORGE CLARK,
CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE UNIONIST PARTY:

TO SIR GEORGE CLARK

7.1.74

DEAR TONY

IN VIEW OF THE DECISION OF THE ULSTER UNIONIST COUNCIL TO REJECT
THE POLICIES OF THE UNIONIST ASSEMBLY PARTY I HAVE DECIDED THAT
I CAN NO LONGER CONTINUE AS LEADER OF THE PRESENT PARTY ORGANISATION.

I WOULD ACCORDINGLY ASK YOU TO ACCEPT MY RESIGNATION.

I HAVE TAKEN THIS STEP RELUCTANTLY AFTER SO MANY YEARS CLOSELY
ASSOCIATED WITH THE ORGANISATION AND WITH YOU PERSONALLY.

YOURS EVER

BRIAN

I HAVE TAKEN THIS STEP BECAUSE I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WRONG TO
CONTINUE IN LEADERSHIP OF A PARTY ORGANISATION WHICH HAS
REJECTED THE POLICIES ON WHICH MY COLLEAGUES AND I FOUGHT THE
ELECTION AND WHICH WE HAVE SINCE PURSUED.

I RECOGNISE THAT THERE WERE AT LEAST THREE DIFFERENT MOTIVES
ACTIVATING THOSE WHO SUPPORTED FRIDAY'S MOTION TO REJECT A
COUNCIL OF IRELAND AS PROPOSED IN THE SUNNINGDALE AGREEMENT:
THERE WERE THOSE ANXIOUS TO SEE A CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP, AND
THERE WERE THOSE WHO WANTED TO EFFECT A MAJOR CHANGE OF
POLICY - WHICH I COULD NOT ACCEPT.

A THIRD GROUP OF DELEGATES WERE EXPRESSING THEIR GENUINE CONCERN
ABOUT THE SUNNINGDALE AGREEMENT AND WERE LOOKING FOR REASSURANCE
THAT THE AGREEMENT WILL BRING BENEFITS FOR UNIONISTS SUFFICIENT
TO JUSTIFY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COUNCIL OF IRELAND.

TO THESE PEOPLE I WANT TO SAY:

MY COLLEAGUES AND I UNDERSTAND AND SHARE YOUR CONCERN.
IT IS, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE, OUR DETERMINATION TO
ENSURE THAT ALL PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT FULFILL THEIR
OBLIGATIONS.

IF THIS DOES NOT HAPPEN THE AGREEMENT WILL NO LONGER BE
OPERABLE, AND THE COUNCIL OF IRELAND WILL NOT BE FORMED.

I AM SORRY THAT THE OUTMODED STRUCTURES OF OUR PARTY HAS MADE IT
IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOUR VIEWS TO BE REGISTERED WITHOUT THE MATTER
BEING FORCED TO A CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP.

MU COLLEAGUES AND I RESPECT YOUR CONCERN AND WE INTEND TO ENSURE
THAT YOUR VIEWS ARE HEARD AND HEHEDED.

I INTEND TO CONTINUE AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE NI EXECUTIVE AND
LEADER OF THE ASSEMBLY UNIONIST PARTY SO LONG AS MY COLLEAGUES SO
WISH.

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7.1.74

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