

To the participants  
of the Irish Conference in Duisburg  
on 14th/15th Oct., 1988

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Mr. Jack Allen  
- OUP -  
Belfast

Mr. Austin Currie  
- SDLP -  
Tullydraw

Mr. Gordon Mawhinney  
- Alliance Party -  
Belfast

Rev. Alex Reid C.Ss.R.,  
- Republican Movement -  
Belfast

Mr. Peter Robinson  
- UDUP -  
Belfast

Dear Sirs,

The New Year, fast approaching, causes me to think back to our Conference in Duisburg on 14th/15th October. Allow me to express my heartfelt gratitude for the constructive manner in which you conducted the discussions.

In the meantime I have been informed that it would be useful to continue the deliberations begun in Duisburg. I had originally intended to come over to Ireland for this purpose before Christmas. However, I learned yesterday that the intended visit to the Irish Government will not be possible until the beginning of the New Year. It would then be most useful if I were to meet you directly after that visit.

Before this meeting I would like to know from you which problem you consider to be causing the greatest difficulty for progress along the path upon which we had started out. I would be very grateful if you could send me some information about this.

I wish you a Blessed Christmas and all the best for the New Year, especially prosperity and peace for your land.

Kindest regards,

*Eberhard Spiecker*

PAB/4644/DP

FROM: J E McCONNELL, PAB  
DATE: 3 JANUARY 1989



PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - M    cc    PS/Mr Stewart (L&B) - M  
PS/Dr Mawhinney (L&B) - M  
PS/PUS (L&B) - M 2/1/89  
① PS/Sir K Bloomfield  
Mr Burns - M  
Mr Thomas - M    ② POLI  
Mr Miles  
Mr Kirk - M  
Mr Daniell

Mr Eberhard Spiecker has written to the participants in the Duisburg talks suggesting that a further meeting might be helpful. The attached letter is self-explanatory though it would be interesting to know who had informed him it would be useful to continue the deliberations - neither of the unionists nor Gordon Mawhinney have been in touch with him to lead him to believe that it would be useful to continue.

I will of course make further enquiries.

*J. E. McConnell*

J E McCONNELL  
Political Affairs Division

DP/2870