

FROM: S G BREARLEY
PARLIAMENTARY CLERK
5 JUNE 1995

MR BROOKER B
MR STEPHENS B
MR PERRY B
MR GREER (Cent Sec) B ✓

cc: Mrs Rogers B
Mrs Sear B
Mrs McNally B
Mr Webb B
Ms Phillips B

PMS BULL POINTS

I attach the Bull Points that were provided to No 10 last month and would be grateful if you could let have any amendments by close of play next Wednesday, 14 June. Could contributions please be kept as brief as possible

SIGNED

S G BREARLEY

forwarded to
DFP - 12.6.95 ✓
DENI - 12.6.95 ✓
DANI - 12.6.95 ✓
DHSS ✓ 7.6.95 ✓
DOE - 12.6.95
DED - 12.6.95
CCRU - 9.6.95

PARLY/13212

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To STUART
From Reboot Co-ordination, Legislation and Services
Direct line / ext. 28183 Date 16.5.95 Time 16.25
Number of pages to follow 5
Is confirmation of this fax required? Yes No

Message PM BULL PRINTS - AMENDMENTS

HAVE YOU CAN READ THEM!

PLEASE SEND ME FINAL COPY ISSUED TO NO 10.

Reboot

NORTHERN IRELAND

Exploratory Dialogue

Exploratory dialogue with representatives of Sinn Fein commenced on 9 December.

Purpose of dialogue to explore the basis upon which Sinn Fein would be admitted to talks process; how they might play a full part in the public life of Northern Ireland; and to examine the practical consequences of the ending of violence.

Need to be sure that Sinn Fein will engage in serious and constructive discussion on the decommissioning of arms and will explore how decommissioning can most effectively be achieved before Ministers participate.

Exploratory dialogue with representatives of the UDP and the PUP commenced on 15 December.

Loyalist paramilitaries have entered serious discussions on decommissioning with Michael Ancram, Minister of State, NIO.

The Government is looking for substantial progress on this issue before either Sinn Fein or the loyalist parties can be included in inclusive political dialogue. This is a matter of political reality.

Political talks

The Government intends to invite the four main NI Parties to bilateral discussions.

Prepared to explain Framework Documents to Sinn Fein in the current discussions at Official level. Hope that, depending on progress in exploratory dialogue, they too can be included in the round of discussions we intend to have with the other parties.

Hope through these bilateral discussions, we can carry forward into another stage the process of developing understanding and consolidating areas of common ground.

Format of future Talks will be a matter for the participants to determine.

Joint Framework Document

"Frameworks for the Future" was published on 22 February. "A New Framework for Agreement" (known as the Joint Framework Document) represents, a shared understanding between the British and Irish Governments to assist discussion and negotiation involving the Northern Ireland parties.

The Government has also outlined its ideas on where agreement might be found for new institutions in NI in "Frameworks for Accountable Government in NI".

Purpose of both documents is to facilitate and stimulate further dialogue with the parties. Not a blueprint to be imposed.

Final outcome of 3 stranded Talks process will be put to electorate in Northern Ireland for approval in referendum.

North-South Institutions

Proposals suggest that the North/South body could carry out a range of consultative, harmonising or executive functions. It would not have free standing authority. It would be accountable to the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Irish Parliament respectively.

Law and Order

As at 9 April 32 people have been charged with terrorist offences, including 1 with murder and 3 with attempted murder.

As at 28 February the RUC strength was 8467 full-time officers and 4690 reserve officers (full-time/ part time).

Financial provision for the police in 1994/95 is £621.2m.

As at 28 February regular army force level was 11290 and the Royal Irish Regiment was 5322.

There has been 1 death in 1995 as a result of terrorist violence.

Investment conference

International Investment Forum took place in Belfast on 13 and 14 December, attended by over 159 top business people from GB and overseas.

Making Belfast Work

Special initiative for the most disadvantaged areas of Belfast. The total funding available through MBW since it began in 1988 is approximately £145m. In April 1994 MBW merged with the Belfast Action Teams, and from April 1995, these will be reorganised into six teams which will facilitate the development of Area-based partnership. Funding of £50m will be available for the years 1995/6 and 1996/7

Londonderry Initiative

Special initiative to address various aspects of urban decline and social and economic deprivation in Londonderry area. In 1995/96 financial year a total of £2.7m has been allocated to

the initiative bringing total funding to around £20.1m.

Fair Employment

The Analysis of the 1994 monitoring returns was published by the Fair Employment Commission in March 1995. This showed that the proportion of Catholics in monitored employment continues to rise and now stands at 37.3% - up 2.4% points from 1990 when monitoring began. (The 1991 census figures showed that Roman Catholics accounted for 40% of the economically

Active population at that time. These figures would indicate that in the public and private sectors there are concerns with more than 26 employees, about half the under-represented of Roman Catholics has been eliminated).

Industrial Relations

Total number of working days lost through strikes in 1994 reached a record low of 9 days per 1,000 employees compared with 29 in 1993 and an average of 24 between 1990 and 1994.

Economic Development

Department of Economic Development plans to spend some £505m on economic development in 1995/96.

Economic Situation

At ^{APRIL} ~~March~~ 1995 seasonally adjusted unemployment (89,500) was at its lowest level since ^{NOVEMBER} ~~December~~ 1981; it was ^{NOV} 2,500 below the figure for ^{APRIL} ~~March~~ 1994; and had fallen for 10 out of the last 12 months.

Employment

Over year to December 1994, number of employees in employment in NI rose by 10920 to reach 563,600. This represents an all time high for employees in employment.

Output

Manufacturing output has been on a generally upward trend since

the end of 1991. Over the year, between 4th quarter of 1993 and 4th quarter of 1994 manufacturing output has increased by 6.8%.

Recent survey evidence suggests Northern Ireland is showing positive signs of change following the cessation of violence; with significant improvements in output, business confidence, exports and investment intentions.

Industrial Development Board

1993/94 was one of the most successful years ever for IDB with 2,309 new jobs anticipated from 13 new inward investment projects and over 5,500 new jobs created during the year by new inward investment (113) and established (5,395) client companies.

SEE
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Targets for 1994/95 include 16 new inward investment projects with 2,600 potential new jobs. At 28 February 1995 3,838 new jobs had been promoted, 2298 from inward investment. This includes 1,800 jobs associated with the Hualon textile project from Taiwan.

Training & Employment Agency

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T&EA budget for 1995/96 of £203m. Agency exceeded its target of placing 33,000 persons into employment in 1994/95.

Industrial Research & Technology Unit (IRTU)

IRTU promotes wealth creation through industrial R & D, technology transfer and innovation. It has concluded a Joint Statement on R & D collaboration with the United States Department of Commerce, Technology Administration.

Housing

The overall level of resources available for housing in NI in 1995/96 is £596m which is a £28m increase over 1994/95. The NIHE share of this is £544m (£22m more than 1994/95). Registered housing associations will receive some £50m to start 1200 units of accommodation.

Almost
Over 62,000 houses have been sold by NI Housing Executive and 67% of householders now own their homes.

Education

Spending on Education was £1.3 billion in 1994/95, an increase of 3.8% over final outturn for 1993/94. From 1979 to 1995 it will have increased by 37% in real terms.

In 1993/94, 36% of 18 year olds in NI entered higher education, compared to 30% in Great Britain. The proportion of Northern Ireland new entrants to universities in Northern Ireland in 1993/94 from social classes IIIM, IV and V was 36%, compared to the UK average of 22%.

Health

Spending on the health and personal social services in 1995/96 will exceed £1.5 billion, including a transfer of £100.5m from the Social Security Programme for Community Care, an increase of 55.4% over 1994/95 outturn and 55% in real terms over 1979/80 (45% excluding the Social Security transfer).

Social Security

Spending on the social security benefits system for 1995/96 will be nearly £2.8 billion, an

increase of 5.3% over projected 1994/95 outturn and 36.5% in real terms over 1990/91.

Small town regeneration

Government has committed £18 million over 6 years to this programme which has led to the creation of 42 town based projects and has attracted a further £34m from the International Fund. A further £5m has been allocated to the Crisp/Cers programme which, with matching funding from IFI, should enable an estimated 25 new projects to be grant-aided in the next three years.

Finance

Public Expenditure figures for NI for the 3 years 1995/96 to 1997/98 are £7.7 billion, £7.9 billion and £8 billion respectively. The 1995/96 figure is an increase of 3% (£220m) over 1994/95 estimated outturn. Spending per head continues to be about 1/3 higher than the UK average reflecting the particular needs and circumstances of the province.

Tourism

Total visitors to Northern Ireland during 1994 rose 3% on 1993 levels to a record 1.294 million, and holiday visitors increased by 10% to 276,000 (the highest figures since 1967). Tourism revenue rose by 3% in real terms to £183m.

Enquiry levels at NITB Offices for 1994 showed an increase of 32% on 1993, handling a total of 301,594 enquiries (93,000 between September and December, an 86% increase).

^{THIS}
Positive trend has continued into 1995, with enquiries to all NITB offices showing a 69% increase in the first 3 months. 67.3

European Community

Development of the draft Programme for the EU Peace Initiative is being informed by an extensive consultation exercise involving a wide range of local interest.

Government hopes to submit the Programme, jointly with the Irish, by late May/early June.

To date 5 Community Initiative Programmes have been approved by the European commission and negotiations on the remaining 4 Programmes are well advanced. Hoped that total of 125 mecu (£100m approx) will be earned from this source.

Community Relations

Funding for Community Relations has increased from £1m in 1988-89 to over £8.7m in 1995/96.

Equality and Equity

~~A public consultation process has been held to consider the scope and form of legislation to outlaw racial discrimination. HMG is currently considering recommendations on the way forward.~~

A review of the effectiveness of the Fair Employment (NI) Act 1989 and progress towards equality of opportunity and fair participation in employment is underway. A report will be produced by 1996.

THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED, IN APRIL 1995, THAT LEGISLATION, ON THE GENERAL LINES OF THE RACE RELATIONS ACT 1976 WILL BE INTRODUCED IN N.I. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Revised guidelines in place to ensure that policies and programmes being developed or reviewed by Government do not discriminate unjustifiably against particular sections of the community.

Citizens Charter

10 service charters and 11 local charters have now been published, together with a Guide to the Environment, a Road Users Guide and a model Local Environment Charter. Charter Standard Statements by Trading Standards Branch and the N.I. Fire Service will be published in 1995. A Charter for Further Education is also scheduled for 1995. 7 organisations from NI have been awarded a 1994 Charter Mark bringing the total to 15 since 1992.

Agriculture

Total income from farming in NI increased by 19% in real terms in 1994 to its highest level for 21 years. Forecasts of income at farm level for the 1994/95 year indicate increases across all farm types, incomes of LFA cattle and sheep farms, which account for more than half of all NI farm businesses, are forecast to have increased by almost 20%.

Rural Development

The Rural Development Programme assists the social and economic regeneration of the most deprived rural areas. Over twenty projects have been launched to date with a total investment commitment of £15m.

Transportation Principles

New transportation policy places an emphasis on the need to minimise, where possible, the effects of transport on the environment and action will be taken to make public transport more attractive to commuters. A more detailed statement is being prepared which it is hoped will be issued in the near future.

Northern Ireland Railways

Work on upgrading the Belfast - Dublin rail link is due for completion in 1996. There has been a significant increase in cross border travel since the cease-fire.

New railway station at Great Victoria St, Belfast is due to open in September 1995. It is estimated that 300,000 additional passenger journeys per year will result from the opening of the new station with 1.5m rail customers per year using the new railway facility.