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PA 525/92

FROM: PS/SIR JOHN WHEELER  
1 April 1996

ASST  
SEC  
37/4  
1 APR 1996  
G.C.R.U.

HEAD OF THE N.I.  
5206  
- 1 APR 1996  
CIVIL SERVICE

Mr Steele - B

*Mr. Carson...*  
*for file...*  
*S. 4 4..*

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B  
PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B  
PS/Michael Ancram (DENI, B&L) - B  
PS/PUS (B&L) - B  
PS/Sir David Fell - B  
Mr Legge - B  
Mr Thomas - B  
Mr Perry - B  
Mr Maccabe - B  
Mrs Collins - B  
Mr McKervill - B

UNDER/ SEC 130/4  
- 2 APR 1996  
*ca Mrs Watters*  
CENT SEC

PARADES - MEETING WITH ARCHBISHOP LORD EAMES

*Consett in Conference*  
*S. 4 4..*

When the Minister raised the subject of parades at a meeting with church leaders at No 10, Archbishop Eames said that he would like to have a personal meeting with the Minister on the particular case of Drumcree. This request was followed by a letter of 26 March from the Archbishop and Sir John met Lord Eames on Friday afternoon.

2. Lord Eames explained that he was very concerned about Drumcree and had been working on a full programme of speaking to the police, local Catholic Clergy, Garvaghy Road Residents and proposes to see representatives of the local Orange Lodges. The Archbishop explained that he had to be extremely sensitive. Obviously, the parade was the responsibility of the police once it was outside of church premises. He had considered a ban from the church but thought this would do little good as the Orangemen would simply have an open air service and the Church would lose any positive influence it might have. The Archbishop had been in Australia during the events of last year and had he been present he would have advised Cardinal Daly against speaking in support of the residents.

3. As part of his consultations he had identified what he believed were three possible scenarios for the march:

- (a) That the Orangemen would use an alternative route this year which would not go down Garvaghy Road but would pass a Catholic chapel. The residents would not complain

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about this route providing music was not played when passing the chapel.

- (b) That the march would be in full with bands and regalia but that the Orangemen would give an undertaking that this would be the last year this would happen.
- (c) A third option, and one that the Archbishop, considered to be most likely, was that a slightly more restrained march would go down Garvaghy Road and the residents would be allowed to stand at the side in silent protest.

4. The Archbishop believed that Trimble and Paisley would be key in deciding which option might be taken and he proposed speaking to both of them.

5. Interestingly the Archbishop did not appear to have an overly high regard for the mediators. He believed Mediation Network to be well intentioned but felt they were being used as go betweens and to that extent some people were using them as cover for evading direct contact.

6. The Archbishop asked for the Minister's advice on whether or not a public appeal from him, about three weeks before the Drumcree parade, would be helpful. Sir John said that he believed that such an appeal would not have as much effect as quiet persuasion and, if it was unsuccessful, the Archbishop's influence and credibility could be weakened. ✓

7. Sir John said that he believed that the Archbishop was doing everything that could be done in terms of quiet persuasion and that within Government he was taking a similar approach. Sir John and Archbishop Eames undertook to keep in close contact over the next few months.

Signed

PAUL A JOHNSTON  
PS/Sir John Wheeler

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