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54/91

ASST SEC 312/11
23 NOV 1993
CENT MOW SEC

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CORRECTED VERSION

- cc PS/Secretary of State (L&B)
- PS/Mr Atkins (DED&DOE)
- PS/Michael Ancram (DENI< L&B)
- Mr Loughran
- Mr Watkins
- Mr McCabe (PAB)

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NOTE FOR THE RECORD

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MINISTER'S MEETING WITH CARDINAL DALY - TUESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 1993

1. The Minister paid a courtesy call on Cardinal Daly today. The purpose of the meeting was to give the Minister an opportunity to talk to the Cardinal about matters in general relating to the Economy, Environment, and Making Belfast Work.
2. From the start it was obvious that Cardinal Daly had his own agenda for this meeting. He asked Mr Atkins to pass on his congratulations to the Prime Minister on his courageous speech at the Guildhall last evening. He felt that it was a very brave stance to take and was indeed heartened by it. He also stressed that if the reactions to this statement were negative from Sinn Fein then they would be seen to be fulfilling a very irrational campaign, and undoubtedly would lose popularity. The Cardinal also advised that Sinn Fein had been working for some considerable years to get a political way out of the present situation. He confirmed this intelligence that Gerry Adams could deliver the PIRA (including Martin McGuinness) and, if this did not happen, for any reason then he, as individual, would be finished.

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The Cardinal also praised John Hume's recent attempts at a search for a peaceful solution to the problems of Northern Ireland, but advised that at no time had he entered into dialogue with John Hume, preferring to distance himself.

3. The Cardinal also informed the Minister that the recent bombing in the Shankill Road had shocked and horrified Gerry Adams. He had not been aware that this was being planned. Each brigade has its own autonomy. The Cardinal's intelligence suggested that this had been a revenge vendetta by the Ardoyne Brigade.
4. In concluding the discussion the Minister congratulated the Cardinal on his close working relationship with Archbishop Eames. He felt this was very positive working contribution to forwarding a peaceful and practicable settlement to the NI problem.

Patricia Elliott

PATRICIA ELLIOTT

PS/Mr Atkins

19 November 1993

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