

225/93

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DB/4/1

FROM: MRS DOREEN BROWN
CENT SEC

DATE: 4 JANUARY 1996

cc PS/Sir David Fell - B
Mr Watkins - B
Ms Checksfield - B
Mrs Deylin



*Mrs McAuley 5/1
LD4/1*

MR LEACH - B

PRIME MINISTER'S APPEARANCE ON "FROST ON SUNDAY" : 7 JANUARY 1996

1. Martin Howard's note of 2 January to you requesting bull point briefing for the Prime Minister's appearance on "Frost" on 7 January refers.
2. I attach some bull points on the economy which you may wish to consider including in your briefing.

[Signed: DAB]

D A BROWN
CENTRAL SECRETARIAT

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ECONOMY

- Over the year to the first quarter of 1995, manufacturing output in NI increased by 7.2% compared with an increase of 3.5% in the UK as a whole.
- 1995 tourism figures look set to break all records. Estimated figures for the first six months of the year show that the number of out of state visitors to Northern Ireland rose by 14% as compared to the same period last year, and the number of holiday visitors increased by 56%.
- During 1994/95, 6,000 new jobs were created in IDB client companies, 10 new inward investment projects were attracted offering almost 2,000 new jobs, whilst export survey showed sales outside the UK by NI based companies growing by over 24% to £2,215 million between 1991/92 and 1993/94 compared to a UK rise of 18%.
- In November 1995 alone, £154 million of inward investments were announced; these will generate over 2,000 new jobs. Eleven NI firms announced investments totalling £40 million and creating almost 700 new jobs.
- Since the ceasefires, some £274 million has been transferred from the security budget to social and economic programmes over the period 1995/96 to 1998/99.
- NI will also benefit from the £240 million EU Peace and Reconciliation Package.
- A boost has been given to trade and investment in NI by the Investment Forum held in Belfast last December and the Investment Conference held in Washington last May.

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Mrs McAuley s/1 225/93
COPY

Mrs Doreen Brown 4041

DESK IMMEDIATE

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FROM: MRS DOREEN BROWN
CENT SEC
DATE: 4 JANUARY 1996

cc Ms Checksfield - B
Mr Jagelman



FOR THE ATTENTION OF MR D COLEMAN - B

PRIME MINISTER'S APPEARANCE ON FROST ON SUNDAY

1. It has been suggested that the briefing for the Prime Minister should include a list of policy decisions taken in Northern Ireland in spite of Unionist opposition (to demonstrate that the Government is not in hock to the Unionists) and a list of decisions taken which did please Unionists, but which were taken on their merits.
2. There are a number of difficulties in pursuing this line, even if such lists could be compiled:
 - a list of anti-Unionist decisions being quoted on national television would presumably antagonise the Unionists;
 - equally, a list of pro-Unionist decisions, even if portrayed as being the right decisions in themselves, would antagonise Nationalist interests in Northern Ireland.
3. The production of any such lists is also a problem:
 - on the social and economic front, there is little difference between the Unionist and Nationalist viewpoints. A demonstration of this is the fact that the UUP and SDLP have met on a number of occasions to address a range of such issues and have found a wide measure of agreement, which they indeed presented to the

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Prime Minister last May. Unionist opposition to Government policies in these areas is generally shared by the SDLP, for example, in relation to privatisation, contracting out of services;

- on the security front, decisions on aspects such as the de-escalation of security measures post-ceasefire have consistently been presented as based on operational needs rather than on the basis of pleasing or displeasing any particular political grouping.

4. The only two areas where we feel that any reference could be made to pro or anti-Unionist actions are the creation of the Select Committee and the production of the Joint Framework Document. These should not, however, be offered as examples by the Prime Minister but, should Sir David Frost refer to them, the Prime Minister could respond as follows:

- on the Select Committee, the proposal received the backing of the House of Commons and, indeed, includes SDLP membership; it was not a pro-Unionist proposal but one considered appropriate for Northern Ireland's interests;
- the Joint Framework Document was the shared view of the British and Irish Governments on a possible way forward, produced as a basis for discussion. It was not intended to be pro or anti-Unionist (or any other political viewpoint).

5. Should Sir David Frost attack with the line that the Government is in hock to the Unionists, the best approach would be to turn the question back onto him, asking for examples. It is difficult to imagine that he would be able to produce anything of significance - certainly nothing which would ring any bell with a UK audience - and it is also likely that anything he did come up with would be examples where the opposition to the policy came not only from Unionists but from Nationalists also,

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where the policies were national policies determined at a national level by the entire House of Commons, or where decisions were made on the basis of operational needs of the security forces.

[Signed: DAB]

D A BROWN
CENTRAL SECRETARIAT

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FROM: MARTIN HOWARD
PS/SECRETARY OF STATE
2 JANUARY 1996

ASST 08 69/12.
SEC - 3 JAN 1996
CENT SEC

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- cc: PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - B
- PS/Sir John Wheeler (L&B) - B
- PS/Michael Ancram (L&B) - B
- PS/PUS (L&B) - B
- PS/Sir David Fell - B
- Mr Legge - B
- Mr Thomas - B
- Mr Bell - B
- Mr Steele - B
- Mr Watkins - B
- Mr Perry - B
- Mrs Collins - B
- Mr Maccabe - B
- Mr Stephens - B
- Mr Brooker - B
- Mr Wood (L&B) - B
- Ms Checksfield - B
- Ms Harrison - B
- Mrs Brown - B
- Mr Beeton - B

3/1
Mr Ancram
Could you
pull together
please.
Mr Ancram
 LD 31. I have already passed
 my copy of this. I need to
 suggest be produced. I
 called for Bull points and the
 material passed to 10 the property
 in 1993, 21/12 1993?
 And perhaps - page 28
 4 bull points on
 economics post-union?
 3/1
 2.1

90/1
- 2 JAN 1996
CENT SEC

MR LEACH - B

PRIME MINISTER'S APPEARANCE ON "FROST ON SUNDAY": 7 JANUARY 1996

The Prime Minister is appearing on "Frost" for a 40 minute live interview on Sunday 7 January 1996. He expects about 10 minutes of this interview to be devoted to Northern Ireland.

2. I should be grateful if you could co-ordinate the production of a short set of briefing bull points covering the usual subjects. Particular points to focus on include:

- (a) the recent spate of punishment shootings. On that it would be helpful to have useful recent quotes, particularly from nationalist sources such as Hendron, Mallon and Daly.
- (b) on a related point, the steps being taken to improve RUC acceptability and access to nationalist populations. For example we should include recent helpful figures about the number of Catholics being recruited into the force.

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(c) claims that the Government is now in hock to the Ulster Unionists because of its eroding majority. The Secretary of State thinks it would be helpful for the Prime Minister to have to hand a reasonably extensive list of those initiatives and policy decisions taken by the Government over the last two or three years which were agreeable to unionists and were also right in themselves. The most obvious example is the establishment of the Northern Ireland Select Committee. But there may be others, eg information and statistics about the extent to which we have minimised legislation aimed at Northern Ireland only and tried to cover Northern Ireland in UK wide legislation.

CPL
are
covering
SMCK
311.

3. I need to get this to No 10 by lunch time on Friday 5 January. It would therefore be helpful to have the material, together with a draft covering letter from me to No 10 by 1600 on Thursday 4 January.

SIGNED

MARTIN HOWARD
PS/Secretary of State

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