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DAILY TELEGRAPH

P. 12

FINANCIAL TIMES PAGE 20

Britain and Ireland signal new deal on Ulster's future

By Ralph Atkins

THE widest-ranging talks for 70 years on Northern Ireland's political future opened in London yesterday with the UK and Irish governments expressing a willingness to rework the 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Mr John Major and Mr Albert Reynolds, the UK and Irish prime ministers, sought to give the talks their fullest support with a joint statement offering Unionists, in particular, the prize of a "more broadly based agreement or structure, if this can be arrived at through direct discussion and negotiation".

They said "an opportunity now exists for open, constructive and far-reaching dialogue both on the issues which divide the two main traditions in Ireland and on those which unite them. All of us share a common commitment to the values of constitutional politics and a total rejection of violence

as a means of achieving political progress".

Neither man was present at the talks. The UK delegation was headed by Sir Patrick Mayhew, Northern Ireland secretary, and the Irish team by Mr John Wilson, deputy prime minister.

The talks, which will resume today, lasted three hours and were held amid tight security at Lancaster House under the independent chairmanship of Sir Ninian Stephen, former governor-general of Australia.

They brought all shades of Unionist parties face to face with Irish ministers for the first time since partition in the 1920s.

The Rev Ian Paisley and Mr James Molyneaux, the two Unionist leaders, are anxious for a replacement of the 1985 Agreement, which they believe gives too great a role to Dublin in the affairs of Northern Ireland. They also want an end to Ireland's constitutional claim on the north.

The Irish and the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour party put more emphasis on greater co-operation between Northern Ireland and the south. Dublin argues that if Ireland's constitution is up for negotiation, so too should the UK legislation which led to partition. Irish ministers say their country's constitution has to reflect a strong "aspiration" to unification.

The meeting formed the start of the second "strand" of a talks process which began in April. Unionists only agreed to the transition following assurances from Sir Patrick that it would be on the basis of a sketchy agreement reached in "strand one" on devolution in the province.

Some Unionist MPs hope that Sir Patrick will legislate for a devolved assembly even if the talks collapse, in spite of an agreement by the participants that "nothing will be agreed until everything is agreed".

ULSTER TALKS

Workmanlike approach is Mayhew hope

By Philip Johnston
Political Correspondent

TALKS on the political future of Northern Ireland, involving for the first time in 70 years representatives of all the constitutional political traditions on both sides of the border, began yesterday at Lancaster House in London.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, Northern Ireland Secretary, said he looked forward to a "sensible and workmanlike" approach.

The latest stage of a process that began more than 15 months ago was accompanied by a joint statement from Mr Major and Mr Albert Reynolds, Ireland's Prime Minister, wishing the participants "every success in this historic endeavour".

They confirmed that the two Governments were prepared to consider a replacement treaty for the Anglo-Irish accord signed in 1985, which remains a primary objective of Unionists together with a devolved political structure for the province, reinforcing its position in Britain.

In their statement, the two leaders said an opportunity now existed "for open, constructive and far-reaching dialogue, both on the issues which divide the two main traditions in Ireland and on those which unite them".

They added: "All of us share a common commitment to the values of constitutional policy and a total rejection of violence as a means of achieving political progress."

"We reaffirm the readiness of the two Governments, as the signatories of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, to consider a new and more broadly-based agreement or structure if this can be arrived at through direct discussion and negotiation between the parties concerned."

Leaders hail historic talks on Ulster

GUARDIAN P. 3

Leaks reflect unease at Lancaster House. Alan Travis and Owen Bowcott report

JOHN Major and the Irish Taoiseach, Albert Reynolds, yesterday said they were ready to consider a new and more broadly-based agreement on the political future of Northern Ireland as the first face-to-face detailed talks involving Unionists and Irish ministers opened in London yesterday.

The joint statement by the two prime ministers was issued as the second strand of the talks — to forge a new North-South relationship — began amid high security at Lancaster House in London.

For the first time the leader of the Ulster Unionists, James Molyneaux, and the leader of the Democratic Unionists, the Rev Ian Paisley, sat down in private in the same room with Irish government ministers to discuss the political future of Northern Ireland.

The joint statement said the meeting was "an historic opportunity to make lasting political progress."

It restated the readiness of both governments to consider "a new and more broadly based agreement or structure if this can be arrived at through direct discussion and negotiation between the parties concerned."

The first Lancaster House session, which was chaired by the former Governor-General of Australia, Sir Ninian Stephen, was taken up with opening statements, including a report from the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, on progress in strand one of the round of talks on the political future of the province.

Opening statements were



Albert Reynolds... ready to consider new agreement

also made by the Alliance Party, the Social and Democratic Labour Party and the Irish government. The Ulster Unionist Party and the Democratic Unionists will make their opening statements today and are expected to stress the need for the Irish government to give up its constitutional claim on Northern Ireland.

Sir Patrick has said that he would like to see the talks leading to Westminster devolving powers to a new Northern Ireland administration, at least to the same degree as that enjoyed by the Stormont government before it was suspended in 1972. He has also said that he would not oppose a bill of rights for Northern Ireland.

The talks in London yesterday took place against a background of growing unease within the SDLP and a partial breakdown of the self-imposed rule of confidentiality among delegates.

There were claims that Sir Patrick was prepared to override nationalist reservations about the proposed structure for Northern Ireland's internal government.

A letter sent by Sir Patrick to Mr Molyneaux on July 1 indicated that the Government would be prepared to create new political institutions "including those parts not universally agreed".

The SDLP's proposals for a six-person executive, including members from London, Dublin and the European Community, has not apparently found favour with any of the other parties or the Northern Ireland Office.

The text of a speech by Mr Paisley to the Irish government at a preliminary meeting in London last week, which was released over the weekend, called for the removal from the Republic's constitution of articles two and three, which lay claim to Northern Ireland, without preconditions. "For a thief to demand compensation for returning his ill-gotten gains is the height of lunacy," Mr Paisley added.

From these leaks it is apparent that both Unionist parties are keen to reassure supporters that they have not shifted their position by entering into strand two of the talks.

Sinn Féin, which has been excluded from the talks because of its stance on violence, warned yesterday that "the real agenda for the talks has been set by Britain and is about strengthening partition. The Unionists are now using this to their full advantage."

Unionists to present demands on Ulster

By Colin Brown
Political Correspondent

IAN PAISLEY, the Ulster Unionist leader, last night spoke of his "unconquerable spirit" after beginning historic talks with the Irish and British governments on the future of Northern Ireland, amid tight security in London.

Mr Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, and James Molyneaux, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, will deliver their demands to the talks today, including a power-sharing assembly based on electoral strengths, and repeal of the Irish constitutional claim to the province.

Government sources denied that Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, had given a commitment to accept the Unionists' plan for devolved power, in a letter to Mr Molyneaux leaked at the weekend. "We've bought nothing yet," one source said.

The meaning of Mr Paisley's words shouted through the window of his car as he left may be unclear, but it suggests he intends little in the way of compromise.

In a joint statement, John Major and Albert Reynolds, the Irish Prime Minister, reaffirmed their commitment to replace the Anglo-Irish agreement if agreement could be found. The two did not attend the meeting.

Police mounted a security cordon around the summit between Irish ministers, the British Government, Ulster Unionist leaders, the Alliance party and the SDLP at Lancaster House — the scene of the successful Rhodesia negotiations in 1980.

The first session, under the independent chairmanship of Sir Ninian Stephen, former governor-general of Australia, lasted three and a half hours. After a further session today, the talks are due to continue tomorrow morning before being reconvened in Belfast on 15 July.

Sir Patrick said before yesterday's opening session: "It's the first time for 70 years. We are all delighted and very much impressed... I very much hope that everybody will prove up to the scale of events and that we will enter into this second stage in a very sensible and workmanlike way. I am very confident that we will."

The party leaders have been sworn to secrecy over the talks' progress. Asked to describe the flavour of the first day, John Wilson, Ireland's deputy prime minister, said: "Strawberries and cream."

TIMES P. 2

Ulster peace talks off to good start

John Major and the Irish prime minister, Albert Reynolds, put the future of the Anglo-Irish agreement on the table yesterday at the start of talks on the future of Northern Ireland. In a joint statement, the two leaders suggested replacing the 1985 agreement, detested by the Ulster Unionists, by a "new and more broadly-based agreement or structure" if that could be arrived at through direct discussion and negotiation. Their intervention is seen at Westminster as a means of keeping the Unionists in the talks, the first face-to-face negotiations between all the constitutional parties and the two governments since the early 1920s. It also demonstrated how wide-ranging the talks could be with all issues affecting the two traditions in Northern Ireland open to debate.

British and Irish ministers, together with leaders of two of Northern Ireland's political parties, set out their opening statements at the first session in London chaired by Sir Ninian Stephen, former governor general of Australia, at Lancaster House. The talks made progress with both the Social and Democratic Labour Party and the non-sectarian Alliance party making their presentations. Today Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party and the Official Ulster Unionists, led by James Molyneux, will put their views.

MORNING STAR
P. 8.

NI talks hailed

NORTHERN Ireland talks in London yesterday were hailed as a "historic opportunity" by Prime Minister John Major and Irish Premier Albert Reynolds.

DAILY TELEGRAPH P. 3

Rifle found near site of Special's murder by IRA

Police investigating the suspected IRA murder last month near Tadcaster, North Yorks, of a special constable and the attempted murder of another officer said last night they had found a high-powered rifle near where the gunmen's car was found at Pontefract.

Tests will be carried out on the rifle and a search of the area continue. Two men are in custody charged with murder and attempted murder.

INDEPENDENT P. 2

Five remanded

Two men and three teenagers, one a juvenile, were remanded in custody in Belfast charged with murdering Kieran Abram, 35, a Catholic, early on Sunday.

FINANCIAL TIMES P. 1

London talks seek new pact for Northern Ireland

The widest-ranging talks for 70 years on Ulster's political future opened in London with the UK and Irish governments expressing a willingness to re-work the 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement. The talks, which will resume today, bring Unionist parties and Irish ministers together for the first time since the 1920s. Page 20

EVENING STANDARD
6/7/92 P. 9

Paisley says Maybe

IT WOULD BE imprudent to start using words like "hope", but today's talks at Lancaster House on the future of Northern Ireland are remarkable for the fact that they are taking place at all. It would have been impossible 20 years ago to imagine Dr Ian Paisley sitting face to face with representatives of the Dublin government to talk about the constitutional future of Northern Ireland. In Irish politics symbols matter, and this particular gesture by the Unionist parties can be seen as a shift from intransigence towards compromise. Of course, the objectives of the Unionists and the Irish Government are different. The unionists want an end to the Anglo-Irish agreement which gives Dublin a say in the affairs of Northern Ireland, while the Irish Government will only give up the agreement if it is replaced by an arrangement satisfactory to the nationalist community in the North.

The Anglo-Irish agreement says that the Dublin Government will assist the British Government in arriving at some form of devolved government in the province. So far, the nationalists and the unionists are some way apart in their proposals for sharing responsibility for the government of Northern Ireland. But, however much the parties disagree in detail, the fact that they have put so much time and effort into the talks suggests that their constituencies back home are tired of intransigence and will contemplate any reasonable constitutional arrangement which will fill the political vacuum in which only terrorism flourishes. Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, can take heart from that much.

TODAY P 4

PEACE GETS A CHANCE

POLITICAL leaders from both sides of the Irish border sat down together in London for the first time in 70 years last night.

After the historic No 10 meeting a statement from Premier John Major and Irish PM Albert Reynolds held out the hope of more cross-border co-operation designed to bring peace.

Mirror P. 2

IRISH LEADERS IN HISTORIC TALKS

IRISH leaders met for the first time in 19 years yesterday for historic peace talks.

The session - held amid tight security at Lancaster House, London - was the first face-to-face meeting between the Dublin Government and Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists.

Irish Premier Albert Reynolds and Prime Minister John Major hailed it as "an historic opportunity to make lasting political progress."

They vowed to scrap the Anglo-Irish agreement, which has caused bitter opposition feelings in Ulster, if the talks can produce a better system.

In a joint statement they added: "We have consistently made clear the great importance we attach to these talks."



VOW: Premier Reynolds

SUN P. 2

Key talks on Ulster

TOP politicians from Northern and Southern Ireland yesterday held historic talks on the future of the province.

Ulster Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew called for a "workmanlike" approach as leaders from both sides sat down together for the first time in 70 years.

Security was tight at Lancaster House, London, where former Australian Governor-General Sir Ninian Stephen is chairing the talks.

Mirror P. 7

IRA BLAST JUDGE DIES

JUDGE James Crespi, who was blasted by an IRA car bomb outside the Old Bailey in 1972, has died aged 63.

The judge, whose bloodied face was pictured around the world, ignored a policeman's advice not to walk past the court.

Crespi called the bobby



VICTIM: Crespi

to his hospital bedside and said in Latin: "Many receive advice, only the wise profit by it."

He joked that doctors would need an archaeologist to find the injuries in his enormous bulk.

He helped prosecute the Kray gang before being made a judge.

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DATE: 1992
P. 12

Britain and Ireland signal
new deal on

Belfast's best

STUDENTS from a Belfast grammar school have been named as the country's top teenage entrepreneurs for 1992 by winning the Young Enterprise—Midland Bank National Company Competition.

The pupils from St Mary's Christian Brothers School, who produced a cookery

book, a live wire detector and business cards under the trading name Quantum Enterprises, won £1,000, a trophy and certificates of merit.

A company called Circuit from Mortimer Wilson School, Alfreton, Derby, came second.

It produced a bicycle alarm and won £750.

Telegraph P. 25
6-7-92

LESTER TALKS

Workmanlike approach is
Mayhew hope

The article discusses a workmanlike approach and mentions Mayhew's hopes. It appears to be a separate news item on the right side of the page.