



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

15 September 1993

Dear Dr Alderdice,

The Prime Minister, who has been away from London this week, has asked me to thank you for your letter of 12 August, in which you asked for a meeting with him to discuss the political and security situation in Northern Ireland.

The Prime Minister has asked me to say that he looks forward to seeing you, and is glad to know that you are also discussing your concerns with the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Northern Ireland Office, Michael Ancram. He has asked his Diary Secretary, Sandra Phillips, to be in touch with you soon to discuss a time for the meeting. The Prime Minister very much regrets that his Far Eastern tour, beginning at the end of this week, and the Conservative Party Conference which follows hard on its heels, will inevitably cause some delay in setting up the meeting. If in the meantime you wish to pursue the security angle separately from your political discussions with Mr Ancram, he has suggested that you might have a word with Sir John Wheeler.

*Yours sincerely,
Roderic Lyne*

RODERIC LYNE

Dr J T Alderdice

~~PP 243~~
PP 243

Michael

Notes on Meeting with Sir Ancram MP.

15/9/93

Mr

Sir Ancram's main objective for the meeting was to define the various points discussed at last year's talks according to the following categories:

- 1) "bankable"
- 2) "contingently bankable"
- 3) "remotely bankable"
- 4) not acceptable at all

He asked for the Alliance Party representative to categorize the issues in terms of those four options. He also stated a desire to know what was Dr. Alderdice's estimation of the other parties' opinions.

Mr Sir Ancram's stated goal was to obtain an idea of the areas of difference and of the bridges which could be built between them. The Minister also wished to know "Where we stand within Northern Ireland and within the framework of the three strands."

A ~~short~~ discussion ensued regarding the number of representatives the delegations were to be allowed. ^{The Minister} ~~Sir Ancram~~ was non-committal about the numbers, but all participants agreed most emphatically about "deliverability" being essential.

The Minister's view of the three ^{key} strands indicated some desire to highlight relations between the UK and the Republic of Ireland and also Northern Ireland and the Republic.

The unofficial agenda followed by Sir Ancram included these points (Alliance responses are indicated by A-):

STRAND 1

-The creation of an elected unicameral assembly
A-acceptable in principle

^{Mr}
1 The importance of this to Sir Ancram and any new talks was unclear.

REPHRASED FACTS OF THE ABOVE REPORT FROM THE NIE.

- Executive and/or legislative responsibilities
 - A-preferable to draw the executive from the legislature
 - A-does not object to separation of powers, provided problems extant are solved

- Range of subjects *RANGE*
 - 1973 is considered the minimum acceptable by Alliance and also seemingly by ~~the~~ Angram
 - A-suggests the following may be added to agenda:
 - A-revenue raising powers of new government
 - A-relations with Europe of new government
 - A-cross-border cooperation. examples: a Ministry of Justice to be established early, with limited jurisdiction which will expand with time and creation of a "mini-Irish Interpol"
 - Is security likely to be discussed on the first day?
 - A-no

CONCERN POWERS OF NEW ASSEMBLY



change.

- Are the executive responsibilities to be discharged through the legislature?
 - A-no answer within categories, but did specify a desire to change ~~to~~ ^{THE} current structure of 6 departments
- Heads of department to be drawn from the legislature
 - A-certainly
- Is the legislature to exercise its power through committees?
 - A-respond as contingently bankable
 - A-in favour of the departments being run by their heads, who are charged with giving an account of themselves to the committees, as opposed to direction from the committees
 - A-note the following objects ^{TO} to direction from committee:
 - 1) committees are cumbersome
 - 2) heads of departments should be able to link with their counterparts in the Republic
 - 3) minority heads of department may be bound by majority committees, removing some protection for minorities
 - both parties agree on proportionate representation. which Alliance highlights

-A point regarding the Prime Minister, to which Alliance agrees. The nature of the point is unclear

PROP BY J. *A. WANTS IT TO FUNCT.* *PURPOSES* *COMM.* A-General ~~purpose~~ and Finance ~~department~~ to be drawn from the chairmen of committees. GP&F is expected to function as an executive ~~branch~~ under Alliance proposals (power sharing executive)

-Does the legislature require majority support? straight
vs. weighted majority

W REGD
AS WELL AS PR

A-weighting is inherent in proportionate
representation and is vital because it is a
protection for minorities

-legislature required to have a straight majority for
some areas and a weighted majority for others
A-in principle OK, but has not seen a workable
scheme

-Allocation of committee chairmen

A-should be due to party strength, excluding
~~unacceptable parties i.e. ^{those} supporting violence~~

-Bill of Rights and Community Rights

-unamendable by legislature

A-suggests adoption of the European Convention

A-may be amenable, but with protection for
minorities

-From where do the chairmen and/or heads of department
draw their authority

-general response from both participants indicates
from the legislature

-Structure of the Panel of Commissioners. The following
have been proposed by various institutions:

3 ELEC. + 3 EXT.

(A) 1) No Panel

2) 6 externally appointed members (Hume SDLP)

3) 3 members ~~originating from the legislature~~
ELECTED

A-option 2 is not acceptable, and suspicion is
warranted in consideration of option 3 as it
appears to be proposed for political gain only.

A greater number of elected commissioners is
preferable (eg 6)

-what powers should such a panel hold

A-none of significance

-at what price would Alliance accept a troika

A-necessary to have a regional assembly with
legislative powers and a panel with constrained
powers

STRAND 2

How PR WOULD GO ON N-S DELEGATED

~~Tripartite Council~~

A-believes that the best situation is the creation of
cooperative North-South institutions

-council to be autonomous or to require separate
ratification from the legislatures?

A-preference is for council to have ~~delegated~~
~~powers and to seek ratification for decisions~~
~~outside of those powers~~

from relevant Assembly, North South.

A. JEFFERY
DELG. ON
FOUR

I have enclosed a letter which I have received from the NIH. I hope that our efforts have produced a satisfactory result. ~~PLEASE REPLY TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS IF I CAN HELP IN ANY OTHER WAY.~~

Dear Mrs. Crothers,

Mrs. Crothers
15 Ashmont Grove
Belast

21 September 1993

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Bottom section of faint, illegible text, possibly a conclusion or a separate paragraph.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

11 October 1993

Alderman Sean Neeson
44 Milebush Park
Carrickfergus BT38 7QR

Dear Alderman Neeson,

Enclosed please find copies of a letter from Michael Ancram M.P. and notes generated from Dr. Alderdice's last meeting with Mr. Ancram. I will be putting in the post a copy of Dr. Alderdice's reply, but in the mean time he asked that I enquire as to your availability for a further meeting with the Minister on Wednesday, 20 October at 10:30 am at Stormont Castle. Please contact the East Belfast Office to respond.

Best Wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Paul M Smith
CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATE

cc Seamus Close

11 October 1993

Councillor Seamus Close
123 Moira Road
Lisburn BT28 1RJ

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Mr. Paul M Smith
CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATE

cc Sean Neeson