

see R. Stephens
11/30

David
must phone Andy
back. Any quick
comments?
Q

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11 NOV 1993
DUS'S OFFICE

D R A F T

FROM: A WOOD
DIRECTOR, INFORMATION SERVICE
11 NOVEMBER 1993

Mr Thomas - B

As promised: very wordy I'm afraid and the last paragraph needs some more meat if we are to put them on the back foot. AW

BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION

Clear signs that unhelpful official briefing is continuing. Today's Irish News reports: "Dublin sources said that Britain needs to be pushed to take a new initiative on the North".

CORRECTIVE LINE TO TAKE

Refer to the Brussels communique of 29 October where paragraph 5 states: "They agreed that the two governments must continue to work together in their own terms on a framework for peace, stability and reconciliation." Paragraph 7 states: "The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach renewed their support for the objectives of the talks process involving political dialogue between the two Governments and the main constitutional parties in Northern Ireland. They regard that process as vital and its objectives as valid and achievable. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister agreed that the two Governments will continue their discussions to provide a framework to carry the process forward."
(my emphasis)

The British Government regard both these activities (the search for peace and the pursuit of a political talks process) as complementary - not in any way as rivals to or supplanters of each other.

Remind callers that achieving peace - by ending the violence for good - is something which the paramilitaries of all colours could achieve now if they so wishes/were so prepared.

On the talks front remind customers of paragraph 2 the July 8 Conference communique states: "The two Governments remain committed to the political Talks process ... both Governments will continue to make every effort to achieve them (the objectives of the process) through direct discussions and negotiations between all the parties concerned. The two Governments will continue to work together actively ... to achieve agreement by all concerned on the new beginning for relationships envisaged in the statement of 26 March 1991".

So what has "working together actively" entailed?

British Government made it clear in April that once parties were round the table, it would present ideas to give "focus and direction" to help the talks to progress.

British Government has indicated its willingness to share ideas with all parties and has already exposed specific ideas to provide a substantive framework for the way forward to the Irish side. We are still waiting for a clear response from them on

these ideas. [~~timescale details here - 6-7 weeks ago?~~]

a criminal on 2 months

He has yet to be discharged.

~~This has been promised, but not yet~~

outstanding for some weeks

furnished.

EXTRACT OF WORLD AT ONE 11.11.93

This piece contained interviews with Paisley on the publication of his document, Mitchell McLaughlin (actors voice) who thought public support was gathering for the Hume/Adams proposals and that the Irish Govt had been coming more on side in recent days. An interview with Mallon on the logjam paper (he described it as the DUP's European election manifesto).

Jim Dougal introduced his piece by talking about the Clinton letter.

At the end of his piece he said:

"There is a difference between the two Governments at the moment because there are some suggestions from Dublin that the British Government needs to be pushed into taking an initiative on Northern Ireland. My understanding this morning from my own sources is that the British Government is extremely angry at this because they say they have given the Irish Government a set of ideas of a framework for progress and they gave that set of ideas to them two months ago and so far Dublin has not produced a response. And they are saying it is a bit odd that they seem to be saying that the British Government needs to take an initiative when they have given them one already."