

FROM: MRS D E MCNALLY
CPL DIVISION
29 OCTOBER 1993

- 1. MISS HARRISON (GH 28/10)
- 2. MISS GIBBONS -B

NORTHERN IRELAND: KEY POINTS TO MAKE

Your manuscript note of 26 October requested updates on the Political Development section of the attached FCO handout which is distributed to Ministers and Officials when travelling overseas. You may wish to replace the current text with the following:

Key Points to make

Best way forward lies in the Talks process. UK and Irish Governments re-affirmed their commitment to dialogue on 10 September. HMG is currently engaged in private by-lateral discussions with constitutional parties and is also in contact with the Irish Government. Talks are a means to achieving a widely acceptable political accommodation and not an end in themselves.

ADDITIONAL DETAIL (ALL POINTS MAY BE DRAWN ON)

Talks

HMG remains determined to promote further political dialogue towards a comprehensive settlement. HMG believes that the best way forward lies in the Talks process involving all the main constitutional political parties and the two Governments. This commitment to dialogue is shared by the Irish Government and was reaffirmed at the last IGC on 10 September. HMG has embarked on a process of private bilateral discussions with three constitutional parties (the DUP have refused to take part) to explore the basis upon which they can come together for further dialogue.

The key is acceptability and HMG holds that any new arrangements must have the consent of the community, including, the consent of the elected leaders of the constitutional parties.

signed D McNally

MRS D E McNALLY
Constitutional and Political Division

KEY POINTS TO MAKE

1. All-party talks the best way forward. UK and Irish Governments reiterated their support of the talks on 10 September. The talks process remains very much alive. Bilateral work between the parties and between Governments continuing with a view to get talks under way again in the autumn.

Sinn Fein: Dumb/Naive (if raised)

2. Sinn Fein exclude themselves from the talks process with the two Governments and other parties by their espousal of violence.

3. Mr Hume is a very experienced politician. It is a matter for his own judgement when he chooses to talk to himself.

Loyalist Terrorism

4. Determined to combat terrorism from whatever quarter. More loyalist than republican terrorists arrested this year.

US/UK/US

5. No problem with proposals for US visitors to Northern Ireland. Visitors go away realising that media concentration on violence is only a small part of the picture. Priority is to get the parties talking to each other and start new talks. Greatly welcome President Clinton's support for the process. An envoy would not achieve this.

Investment/MacBride Principles

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6. Best way the US can help is by increased investment. MacBride principles mostly unacceptable but campaign for them can discourage investment. Fair Employment Act is having a significant impact.

Broadcasting (if raised)

7. The BBC always makes clear if any story is affected by the Broadcasting Ban in Northern Ireland. Further classification not necessary.

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*Dyane - we spoke.
A response by 28/10 would
be appreciated.
Thanks
Jeff
26/10*

VISIT OF

NORTHERN IRELAND

KEY POINTS TO MAKE

Political Development

1. All-party talks the best way forward. UK and Irish Governments reiterated their support of the talks on 10 September. The talks process remains very much alive. ~~Bilateral contacts~~ with parties and between Governments continuing within it. Hope to get talks under way again in the autumn.

Sinn Fein: Hume/Adams Talks (if raised)

2. Sinn Fein exclude themselves from the talks process with the two Governments and other parties by their espousal of violence.

3. Mr Hume is a very experienced politician. It is a matter for his own judgement whom he chooses to talk to himself.

"Loyalist" Terrorism

4. Determined to combat terrorism from whatever quarter. More loyalist than republican terrorists arrested this year.

US "Peace Envoy"

5. No problem with proposals for US visitors to Northern Ireland. Visitors go away realising that media concentration on violence is only a small part of the picture. Priority is to get the parties talking to each other and start new talks. Greatly welcome President Clinton's support for the process. An envoy would cut across this.

Investment/MacBride Principles

6. Best way the US can help is by increased investment. MacBride principles mostly unexceptionable but campaign for them can discourage investment. Fair Employment Act is having a significant impact.

Broadcasting [if raised]

7. The BBC always makes clear if any story is affected by the Broadcasting Ban in Northern Ireland. Further classification not necessary.

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ADDITIONAL DETAIL (ALL POINTS MAY BE DRAWN ON)

Talks

1. At the Inter-Governmental Conference on 10 September, the Northern Ireland Secretary and Mr Spring agreed on the need to continue working for an early resumption of inter-party talks. They confirmed after the meeting that Michael Ancram will see Northern Ireland parties in private in coming weeks (all but the DUP have agreed to meetings). The two Governments will have intensive discussions over the same period to consider relevant aspects of the process.

Security/Human Rights

2. PIRA continue efforts to provoke instability and reaction through their bombing outrages. "Loyalist" violence is also of major concern. Up to 8 September, 45 people have been killed this year in terrorist incidents (36 civilians and 9 security forces) - 26 by loyalists and 19 by republicans. Up to the same date, 166 loyalists and 93 republicans had been arrested. The number of deaths in recent years was: 1992 - 85; 1991 - 94; 1990 - 76. Ministers on 10 September described cross border security cooperation between RUC and Garda as closer than it had ever been.

Human Rights/Shoot to Kill

3. A fundamental requirement is that the security forces, whether military or police, must operate at all times strictly within the rule of law. The only people in Northern Ireland who pursue a "shoot to kill" policy are the terrorists. They are the real violators of human rights.

Noraid

4. Noraid supporters say they endorse the right of the IRA to fight for freedom. Atrocities such as Enniskillen and Warrington show what that freedom fighting really means.

US "Peace Envoy"

5. The Irish are at one with us that the priority is new talks.

6. We had multilateral talks in 1991 and 1992 in which there was an undertaking to respect the confidence of exchanges. The progress made is not widely understood. The Governments want to build on this with the parties involved. An envoy would not fit into and might inhibit this process.

US Investment

7. US inward investment in Northern Ireland vital. Some 38 US companies employ over 8,500 people, some 9% of the total manufacturing workforce in Northern Ireland. Northern

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Ireland one of the most profitable locations for investment in Europe, because of its competitive cost base, low corporation tax, attractive financial incentives packages, top quality infrastructure, excellent industrial relations record, consistently impressive educational results, highly motivated workforce, and full access to the European Single Market of 340 million people.

MacBride

8. During the first six months of this year, MacBride legislation has been proposed in 11 States; two Bills have been introduced into Congress; and a number of City Councils have considered ordinances incorporating the MacBride Principles. So far, none of the 11 States considering MacBride has passed legislation. The Embassy and subordinate posts are active in keeping track of proposals and lobbying against them.

Fair Employment Act

9. Fair Employment Act 1989, already having significant impact. Fair Employment Tribunal has made a number of judgements leading to awards of up to \$40,000 in compensation. 47 companies are being investigated under the Act.

IFI

10. Welcome support of US administration and Congress for contributions to International Fund for Ireland. US support for the IFI has results on the ground whose importance cannot be overstressed. The Fund has approved assistance of £200m to 3,000 projects, contributing to the generation of 18,000 full-time jobs. In Northern Ireland, 70% of the money goes to the most disadvantaged areas. President Clinton's inclusion of \$20m contribution to the Fund in his budget proposals for 1994 very welcome.

Broadcasting

11. A campaign has been stirred up by the Irish National Congress to require the BBC to put "health" warnings on all programmes broadcast in the US that they are subject to a Government Broadcasting Ban. The BBC do not want a high profile Government reaction which would draw attention to the campaign and are taking steps to respond themselves.

12. Basically the ban covers organisations proscribed by the Emergency Provisions Act and the Prevention of Terrorism Act; additionally it specifically catches Sinn Fein. The ban, interpretation of which is left to the broadcasting organisations themselves, specifies people representing or purporting to represent these organisations or seeking support for them. It is not total. The most notable exemption is at election times. There is also a less precise exception, leaving plenty of room for interpretation, which covers situations in which individuals are expressing personal views.

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