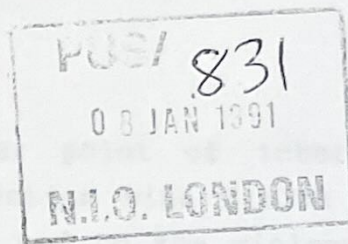


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JMcC/1/1

FROM: J McCONNELL  
AS CENT SEC

DATE: 7 JANUARY 1991

cc PS/PUS (B & L) - B Copies 3 & 4 of 9  
PS/Sir K Bloomfield - B Copy 5 of 9  
Mr Pilling - B Copy 6 of 9  
Mr Alston - B Copy 7 of 9  
Mr McNeill - B Copy 8 of 9  
Mr Petch - B Copy 9 of 9

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (B & L) - B Copies 1 & 2 of 9

DISCUSSION WITH FATHER MATT WALLACE

*PA Pol movement  
23699A  
MOW*

1. Father Wallace is based in St Peter's Parish in the Lower Falls and someone with whom I have had a great deal of contact both when in PAB and now with MBW.
2. He rang me this morning to let me know he had had a conversation with a senior member of "the Provos" (sic) who had told him that he had been disappointed at the Secretary of State's response to overtures made at the time of the 3 day Christmas truce. He went on to tell Father Wallace that the Secretary of State is the only British Minister that they have ever trusted to date and for that reason he felt that the truce could have been extended if a more positive response had been forthcoming.
3. I pressed Father Wallace on the identity of his contact and with a great deal of reluctance he eventually volunteered "it was one of the big Gillans" and stressed that he knows him to be heavily involved in the Provisional Movement.
4. Father Wallace expressed surprise to me that he had been sought out by Gillan to give him this message and he believes it may well be because Gillan is aware of Father Wallace's contacts

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12/23/90/DCR/BJ

with me and others. The only other point of interest that Father Wallace took from the conversation with Gillan was that he felt Gillan was looking towards an end to the violence though he did stress that this could well be wishful thinking on his part.

[Signed: JEMCC]

**J E McCONNELL**  
**MAKING BELFAST WORK**

RC/3709

PIRA ceasefire and continuing violence

2. He has confirmed through intermediary contacts that the Christmas ceasefire was meant to be a significant signal from PIRA to the effect that the Republican movement was interested in seeking a way to end violence. He also said that he had indications that there was a link in Sinn Fein with whom he had had direct contact earlier - Gerry Adams was the only one referred to by name - wanted to develop the idea of a longer term/permanent cessation and that they could follow PIRA/Sinn Fein on this in appropriate circumstances. He said he wanted to reassure himself on his point before putting it forward as a firm assessment of his and he would try to do this very quickly - he later told me that he was to meet Gerry Adams today 12/23/90 and will contact me again over the weekend. He also informed me that in his view Martin McGuinness was at one with Adams.

3. His judgment - though this was before he had the "face to face" contacts - is that exploratory separate meetings between HMG and SDI representatives (at civil service level) and the Republican movement would be enough to secure a scaling down (though those words were