

CONFIDENTIAL

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN DR JOHN O'CONNELL AND THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, 9 JUNE 1993

The telephone call was made by the President in response to a previous call by Dr O'Connell. Dr O'Connell began by explaining that IRA representatives had approached him as they thought that he may be in a position to mediate with the British Government. He had not been very enthusiastic but said that he would mention it to the President. Any mediation would of course have to be dealt with on a strictly confidential basis.

2 The President said that terrorism was terrorism. This was the firm Government policy. He would have to report the conversation to those responsible but would not wish to give encouragement to such an approach. Dr O'Connell said that the issue was not going to go away. It could be dealt with in a more positive way. Any meeting, however, would need to be approached in a very sensitive manner.

He had declined to mediate but they had gone back to him. He had subsequently discussed this with the Irish Prime Minister.

3 Continuing, Dr O'Connell said that his two friends had then brought down the Vice President of Sinn Fein (Mr Pat Doherty?) from Northern Ireland to meet him. They had pressed him again to mediate and he had agreed to make an approach to the British Government [N.B. Dr O'Connell did not at this point mention the President by name, although he did earlier.] The President reiterated that he would have to report the conversation to those responsible. Dr O'Connell said that he would be contactable on the same telephone number until the following week.

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