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Our Ref:
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Memo to John Alderdice from Philip Mc Garry
on recent meetings

Sammy Wilson

- 1) Very keen for devolution
- 2) Says ALL constitutional parties have to be involved at highest level
- 3) Admits some pressure did need to be applied to unionists but now to SDLP
- 4) Accepts we tried to work Assembly
- 5) Does it think review of Agreement will do anything significant
- 6) In favour of secular school system (admits state schools de facto Protestant)
- 7) Pessimistic about prospects for devolution
- 8) Says OUP totally split on devolution/integration
Not impressed with calibre of many OUP people!
- 9) Claims F. Millar was 'abrasive'; 'thorn in the side' (clear rivaling!) 'No loss'
- 10) Bitter against Alliance since Nov. 1985
Admits excluded - will continue to exclude us from committees etc. and imply

i- 1989 will remind electors of our 'deeds'
[Perhaps he actually respects our courage on this,
compared to the total lack of guts from OUP
on most issues]

- 11) Thinks there would be tactically
unwise to stop SF talks prior to elections
- 12) Says SF have to be excluded from an
Assembly
- 13) Would like Protestants if it was justified!
- 14) No possibility of return to old Stormont.

Jeffrey Donaldson

- 1) If gov. suspends A.I.A. agreement for 6 months
for negotiations this would pressure
unionists to produce the goods to keep
the A.I.A. suspended | withdrawn
- 2) Talked of: 'a say in gov.' for
minority
- 3) Claims OUP made clear to King in
January their proposals and are ready
for talks (but not under A.I.A.)
- 4) Believes there met SF to duck talks.
- 5) Wants SF prohibited
- 6) Said (privately) they had to get
rid of Paisley. Aware of damage to
opinion in G. Britain.
- 7) Was aware (and seemed pleased) of our own policy plans

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Patsy Mc Glone

- 1) Main value of A.I.A. agreement to help political process rather than reducing 'alienation'.
- 2) Ready for talks with Unionists without any preconditions (Jeffrey D. said would talk but not under A.I.A.)
- 3) Despite willingness to talk no specific commitment to devolution
- 4) Said: 'talks (i.e. SF) can either fail or succeed' (N.B. Austin (who said in Bulletin on Sun 21st. he thought they would fail))
- 5) Rather bullish when hassled on SF by W.P. people eg 'They'll end when we decide there's no benefit to be gained' (This went down badly!)
- 6) On police NOTHING NEW.
I made specific challenge + he gave the usual bite reply on supporting

police when they are ⁴...

Eventually claimed VINCENT Curran had recently issued statement asking for info. to be passed to police. Sounded highly defensive and didn't impress the audience

7) Seemed under pressure when SF on Councils was mentioned and perhaps to lesser extent when question of relationship to terrorists as opposed to non-nationalist constitutionalists.

John Lowry

1) Said to SDLP a climate had to be created for dialogue

2) Talked (privately) of SDLP USING job discrimination issue and justice issues in sectarian way

3) Not impressed with Mallon's recent statements

4) He noted ALLIANCE only party genuinely committed to mixed schools

5) WP to highlight French Revolution next year.

Two Thurbrook W.P. guys said:

'Leaskey is the biggest problem.'

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Comment

Sammy Wilson

- 1) His two faced ++++
- 2) Paisley + Robinson aren't likely to say publicly they want partnership. (esp Paisley)
- 3) Didn't give impression of v. strong opposition to Holyrenew within OUP
- 4) Despite keenness for devolution (obvious personal interest) is not optimistic
• Can't see SDLP being interested or how pressure can be brought to bear on them.
given no likely change in A.I.A.

Jeffrey Donaldson

- 1) How much weight does he carry?
- 2) How much say is: 'a say in government'
- 3) We must exploit the liaison with Paisley which they know to be disastrous
- 4) Can we persuade OUP to put SDLP on the spot by putting forward reasonable proposals?

Patsy The Glare

- 1) Little sign of a deep interest in devolution.
- 2) V. negative on security.
 Could we exploit this in present climate:
 - (i) asking why they can't call on people to help police after atrocities
 - (ii) asking why Nations there can't commend the courage of individuals who put their lives at risk ~~and~~ who have been IRA victims

Given our position on terrorism we have credibility in asking Catholic community what SPECIFIC proposals they have to help stop the violence.

- 3) Moderate language from unionists will cause SDLP some problems in maintaining its 'moderate, always open to dialogue' claim. This should help Alliance.
- 4) Our devolution proposals should help to flush out a lot of people on both sides

P.S. I prefer Jeffrey D. as an individual and politician with integrity to Patsy The Glare who seems a fairly typical S. Dem nationalist!