

Copy this please to:

Mr Thomas

Mr Cooke

Mr Brooker

From: Mark Elliott
Date: 15 November 1993J/E
15/11cc: PS
PS/PUS
~~Mr Archer, RFB~~

Sir T Daunt

NORTHERN IRELAND

17 NOV 1993

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1. It might just be worth recording the main points of a conversation that I had with Jim Molyneux, Leader of the Ulster Unionists, at the reception after the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Cenotaph on 14 November. I had come across Molyneux on various occasions while I was serving in Belfast between 1985 and 1988.
2. Molyneux had heard during the last week from a constituent associated with PIRA that there was genuine and widespread feeling now among the Provisionals that they were getting nowhere with their military campaign. Molyneux had the impression that, whereas in the past there had been a division between the hawks and the doves as regards going down the political track, this had now changed. He said that there was a rather similar feeling among the "so-called loyalists" - ie the UDA, UVF, etc. Something of a balance of terror had been reached. The time had come to try to break out of the circle of violence.
3. Molyneux said that he had good contacts with the Irish Government. The Tanaiste (Dick Spring) had had some useful ideas and could have achieved something but Reynolds was holding him back and imposing a bureaucratic straitjacket. Molyneux said that he had sent a message to Reynolds but had had no reply. The implication was that Molyneux thought there was a way forward but Reynolds was not playing.
4. From another reference it emerged that Molyneux thought very little of the Hume/Adams plan (unsurprisingly).
5. Molyneux said at the end, clearly expecting that I was in a position to do something about it, that he would be very willing to do anything which HMG would like him to "in a Privy Counsellor capacity", presumably by way of passing messages or making representations to the Irish.

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6. I am not sure whether this is at all new to you. Nor have I had enough dealings with Molyneaux recently to know whether this relative optimism, which he was certainly not showing in the eighties, means anything. Over to you.

Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street

15 November 1993

Dear Loderic,

Mark Elliott

JOINT DECLARATION: MEETING WITH ARCHBISHOP James
Mark Elliott

As foreshadowed in my letter to you of 12 November, the Secretary of State met Archbishop James at Hillsborough Castle on Saturday 13 November.

SUMMARY

Archbishop James confirmed that almost all of the additional text in the latest Irish draft was provided by him. While he had told the Taoiseach that, as a result, the latest draft was an improvement, he had pointed to further improvements which still needed to be made. He did not recognise Irish descriptions of him as being 'enthusiastic' or 'happy with' this latest draft. He agreed to go back to the Taoiseach to correct this misunderstanding and to press him for further improvements on the constitutional guarantee and on Articles 2 and 3. He offered to show the resulting text to Mr Molyneaux.

The Archbishop was anxious that no report of what he said to the Secretary of State should reach the Irish Government before he had himself had an opportunity to speak to the Taoiseach.

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