

B/F 8/7

PS

FROM: PS/SECRETARY OF STATE
27 JUNE 1991

I had a word with the DCI
asap (? weatunk) - we were
who I speak the much
DCI

Copy no of [3]

3/7
PS/PUS (L) [1]
2/7

To sph to DCI about cc.
at 1300, I think.

PS/Secretary of State (L) [2]
Mr Deverell [3]

577

DCI's coming at 12.

POLITICAL MOVEMENT AND THE PROVISIONALS

The Secretary of State met The Rev Desmond Parsons (who has Redemptorist connections) in the House on 6 June. I attach for you and Mr Deverell the letter Mr Parsons subsequently wrote to the Secretary of State, together with the itinerary of his visit to Northern Ireland earlier this year.

2. Mr Parsons confirmed to the Secretary of State that his interlocutor was Hartley, the General Secretary of Sinn Fein. Hartley was seeking a direct dialogue with someone on the British side, and in particular would like to attend a seminar of a quasi-educational nature, to enable Sinn Fein to obtain a clearer picture of HMG's position. Mr Parsons was seeing if he could arrange such a seminar, at which Hartley would be present.

3. The Secretary of State explained to Mr Parsons that it was not possible for officials to be in direct contact with Sinn Fein in this way. However, he promised to give some thought as to how Mr Parsons could achieve his objective of enabling Hartley to have a clearer view of HMG's position. The Secretary of State would be grateful for advice and suggestions as to how this might possibly be done.

Parson

A J D PAWSON
PRIVATE SECRETARY
27 JUNE 1991

SECRET