



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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Meeting with Secretary of State

State asked what was in it for him (Brooke) if Hume's approach was followed. He went on to ask about the SDLP's agenda for talks and, when Hume in response referred again to the interdependence of the three relationships, Brooke asked that the Party elaborate on their thinking in writing. Hume agreed to do this, and will work on a text in close consultation with us.

Redeployment of Secretariat Staff

5. Hume made it clear to the Secretary of State that the SDLP were firmly opposed to suspension of the Agreement and considered the Secretariat to be sacrosanct. Hume's concern about the Secretariat was heightened on Saturday evening when Frank Millar told him on the phone that some Unionist MPs were saying that the British had indicated they were prepared to redeploy staff. (The question of redeployment of Secretariat staff was not, of course, referred to in the Bangor speech).

Nicholson/Allen Interview

6. Hume is deeply sceptical of the Sunday Press interview given by Jim Nicholson and Jack Allen. He is in particular worried that Nicholson and Allen may be seeking by stealth to undermine the Agreement. He firmly believes that Paisley and Molyneaux are not interested in a new comprehensive settlement and are committed only to the negative objective of undermining the Agreement. Paisley, in Hume's view, is in favour of a return to local autonomy on the Stormont model while Molyneaux's interest lies in the extension of the powers of Local Authorities and the greater integration of the North into the UK through, for instance, the establishment of an Ulster Grand Committee at Westminster. He is therefore particularly concerned that any response to the interview should be cautiously and carefully phrased and

should not in any way be open to misinterpretation about our commitment to the Agreement.

Dermot Gallagher,
22 January, 1990.

cc: PST; PSM; Mr. Nally; PSS; Mr. Mathews; Mr. Brosnan;
Counsellors A-I